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# The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy



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**THE OFFICIAL FEDERAL JOURNAL of the ASSOCIATED PHARMACEUTICAL ORGANISATIONS of AUSTRALIA**

**OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND**

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## OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA

#### EXAMINATION COMMENCING DATES 1954.

Preliminary Examination.—November 17, 1954.

Intermediate Examination.—June 9, Botany Examination.  
November 9, 1954.

Final Examination.—August 25, 1954.

Entries for the Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations close fourteen days, and for the Final Examination twenty-one days, before the date of commencement of the Examination.

Full details obtainable from the office of the Board.

360 Swanston Street,  
Melbourne.

F. C. KENT, Registrar.

### PHARMACY BOARD OF N.S.W.

#### QUALIFYING EXAMINATION.

The next Qualifying Examination will commence at the Sydney University on Monday, August 16, 1954.

##### Time Table.

Pharmaceutics I	Monday, August 16, Morning.
Pharmaceutical Arithmetic	Monday, August 16, Afternoon.
Pharmaceutics II	Tuesday, August 17, Morning.
Prescription Reading and Posology	Tuesday, August 17, Afternoon.

Practical work commences on Wednesday, August 18, in the University Laboratories.

Entry forms are available from the Board only. Fee for part or whole of the examination is £3/3/-.

Applications close with the last post on Friday, July 16, 1954.

Watch this column for further announcements.

P. E. COSGRAVE,  
Registrar.

Fifth Floor,  
Winchcombe House,  
52 Bridge Street, Sydney.

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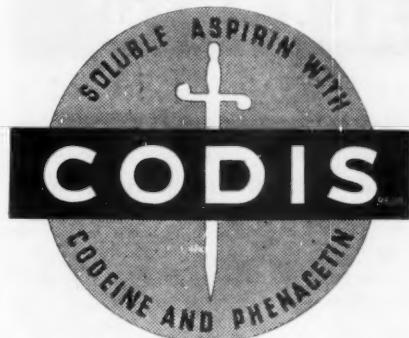
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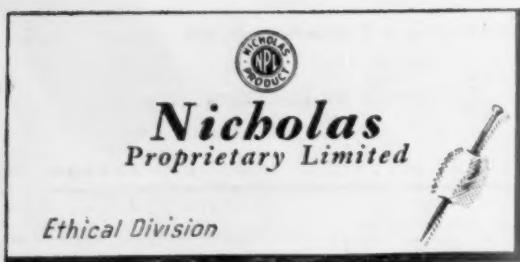
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U.A.J



# Editorial

New Series: Vol. 35—No. 413

Old Series: Vol. LXIX—No. 821

May 31, 1954

## The Wholesalers of Drugs

DURING the month of May, the names of the main trading companies in the D.H.A. group were changed so as to incorporate a reference to the name of the holding company. Elliotts & Australian Drug Pty. Ltd., Felton Grimwade & Duerdins Pty. Ltd., thus become D.H.A. (N.S.W.), D.H.A. (Victoria), and so on with the associated houses in other States.

With the official announcement of the change sent to us was a short article by Sir Russell Grimwade, who at various times in the past has been chairman of Drug Houses of Australia Ltd. and throughout his life has been connected with the business of Felton Grimwade & Duerdins Pty. Ltd. (formerly Felton Grimwade & Co. Pty. Ltd.).

Sir Russell says: "The wholesale drug trade of this country has since its various formations, been developed by several families whose names are well known in their respective States and is served today by the successors—even to the third and fourth generations—of the pioneers."

Hundreds of pharmacists throughout the Commonwealth will share Sir Russell's sadness at the dropping of the familiar and honoured family names for the impersonal corporate nomenclature, whilst admitting the undeniable voice of progress which demands such change.

The progress of Australian pharmacy is inextricably interwoven with the development of the wholesale drug trade, of which Drug Houses of Australia constitutes a very large and important section. Their growth has been collateral, their functions complementary, each performing faithfully and well its specific part in a soundly integrated system of distribution and supply of the merchandise and wares associated with the pharmaceutical industry.

Honourable dealing, sound administration and tolerant understanding of the peculiar requirements of retail pharmacy have marked the activities of the wholesale drug houses in Australia so that as time has passed friendliness and co-operation have characterised relationships to a degree not noticeable in other fields of business.

Criticism when it has been heard has been softened by the background of mutual respect consolidated over the years.

The true function of the wholesaler or "middleman" has been soundly performed by the wholesale drug houses in this country, even in times of acute difficulty. From practically every corner of every continent drug supplies have been channelled to the retail chemist, in whose eyes the operations of the international drug markets are intangible, though fascinating and mysterious.

In time of depression the lenient financial policy of the wholesale houses towards their customers saved many a retailer from disaster. During war, resources were pooled voluntarily. All the major wholesale houses threw in their combined resources to stockpile essential life-saving supplies when the threat of invasion was indeed grim.

The "houses" were built on solid foundations. This, perhaps as much as any other factor, has contributed to their stability and the stability of the industry and profession they serve.

Amongst the founders were adventurous men, possessed of courage, business acumen and sound training. A number of the pioneers were qualified pharmaceutical chemists and as such exercised a powerful influence in early efforts to establish the profession on a proper footing. To them and to their successors we owe much.

Passage of time may obscure the names of these great builders. Coming generations may not readily associate the family names of Grimwade, Fairthorne, Felton, McRoberts, Elliott, Taylor, Scammell, Tompsitt, Fripp, Duerdin, Bickford, Pleasance, Francis and many others with the romantic development of the drug and pharmaceutical trade in this country; but the edifice they built will stand as an enduring monument to their work.

And so we join with Sir Russell Grimwade in saying: "Personal likes and traditional vanities cannot oppose progress. Milestones of change must be passed—albeit with great regret—in a progress that is measured by many years."

# THE MONTH

## NATIONAL HEALTH (PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS) REGULATIONS

New Regulations have been gazetted governing P.B.A. and P.M.S.:

Reg. 2.—Specifies the authorised prescription form must conform to the following dimensions—Length 5 in. to 6 in.; breadth, 3 in. to 4 in.; bearing the name and address of the doctor and at the top the letters N.H.S. For pensioners the script must bear "Pensioner Benefit."

Under Reg. 19 a P.B. or P.M.S. prescription is not duly written unless this form is used by the doctor.

Reg. 8 enforces additional control over Cortisone Acetate (which is now a P.B.). The doctor must first secure authority from the D.G. to write the prescription.

Reg. 13.—Doctors' Bags. Ten drugs are specified which the doctor may order for surgery use.

Reg. 19.—The doctor must write a prescription in his own handwriting. Where the prescription is for a general pharmaceutical benefit, the benefit must be identified by its name or brand, being a brand specified in relation to that benefit in the 1st or 2nd Schedule (this eliminates cheap unlisted brands).

Reg. 22.—If the Committee of Enquiry reports that in its opinion, a doctor has over-prescribed a P.B., the doctor is liable to repay to the Commonwealth the excess cost and that amount is recoverable as a debt due to the Commonwealth.

Reg. 30.—Receipts: A chemist must not obtain a receipt from the patient until he actually supplies the P.B. to that person or his agent, who must write on the back of the script or repeat his address and a statement that he is obtaining the benefit for the patient. Where P.B.s. are supplied through the post or by rail, the chemist must certify on the back of the form, the relevant particulars.

Reg. 40.—Gives an authorised person power to present an entitlement card.

A summary of the Regulations has been prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Health, and will be circulated very soon to all approved chemists in the form of a new issue of "Notes for Approved Chemists."

We shall publish a more detailed synopsis of the Regulations next month.

### REPATRIATION DISPENSING.

#### NEW PRESCRIPTION FORM 70.

#### TO BE USED FROM JULY 1.

The Repatriation Commission has decided to amend the Prescription Form 70 which has been in use for a number of years and with which chemists are quite familiar.

The Form 70 at present in use will become invalid on and from July 1, 1954, and no prescriptions

authorised on an old Form 70 are to be dispensed or supplied on or after that date.

Implications of the adoption of the new Form 70 are set out in a Commission circular to chemists, from which the following extracts are published for general information:—

The principal amendments to the form are—

- (1) it becomes invalid after two months from the date of issue by the Local Medical Officer;
- (2) no prescription is to exceed one month's supply;
- (3) no prescription is to be repeated more than once;
- (4) the Local Medical Officer must separately authorise a repeat of a prescription;
- (5) the Local Medical Officer must indicate the interval of time before a repeat of a prescription is to be supplied, and repeat prescriptions are not to be supplied before that time;
- (6) provision is made on the back of the form for the date of receipt by the patient of any repeat of prescription, and for the patient to sign separately for each repeat;
- (7) receipts for medicines, etc., or repeats of same must not be requested until delivery is made;
- (8) surgical aids must not be prescribed or supplied on Form 70.

Note: In respect of (2) and (3) above, when a Local Medical Officer wishes to prescribe sufficient medicine for two months, one repeat of the quantity prescribed for a month may be authorised on the Form 70.

It will be necessary for the pharmaceutical preparations to be supplied as indicated on Form 70, and a receipt obtained at the time of the supply.

As the Form 70 becomes invalid upon the expiration of two months from the date of issue by the Local Medical Officer, this Department will not bear the cost of any medicines, etc., which are dispensed or supplied after that period.

You will appreciate that the Form 70 is a Prescription Form, and as such is an authority for the supply of medicines, drugs, lotions and dressings. No doubt you are aware that separate administrative procedure is necessary for the issue of surgical aids; consequently the issue of surgical aids or appliances on the Form 70 is not permitted. This Department will not bear the cost of surgical aids supplied on the authority of a Prescription Form 70, and all Local Medical Officers have been asked not to prescribe these on that Form.

For your information the following articles (*inter alia*) are regarded as being included under the term "surgical aids":—

Bed Pans.	Urinals.
Diabetic Scales.	Spirit Lamps.
Sputum Mugs.	Elastic Stockings.
Infra Red Ray Lamps.	Hypodermic Syringes.

Your attention is particularly invited to the requirements of the new Prescription Form and to the "Directions for Chemist" on the reverse of the Form.

Where a proprietary formula is dispensed, it will be necessary for you to indicate, on the Form 70, the particular brand of proprietary preparation which you have supplied.

Accounts for prescriptions supplied should be forwarded to this office monthly. A Treasury Form 12

must be submitted covering the Forms 70 and bearing the following certificate duly signed and dated by you:—

"I certify that the quantities and brands of preparations and repeats of preparations as indicated on the attached Forms 70, for which payment is claimed, have been supplied by me, or on my behalf, to the patients concerned, or to their agents, on the dates indicated on each prescription or repeat of prescription.

(Date)

(Signature of Chemist)"

### NEW ZEALAND GUILD CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Chemists' Service Guild of New Zealand was held in Napier from March 15 to 18, 1954. In commenting, "The Pharmaceutical Journal of New Zealand" says the general standard of the papers read at the conference was high. Particular reference is made to two papers presented by medical practitioners, namely, a paper on "Co-operation Between Medical and Pharmaceutical Professions" by Dr. Charles Burns, M.D., F.R.C.P., and "The Content and Scope of Pharmacy Education—a Need for Change" by Dr. P. P. Lynch, M.D., F.R.A.C.P. Dr. Lynch's paper is published in the New Zealand Journal of April 12. It contains some challenging statements from which the following are selected:—

"There is a defect in the present training of medical students in relation to therapeutics and the technique of prescribing. In my own view the deficiency here is a serious one. I have found, for example, that some students at the end of the fifth year, when all formal instruction in the principles and practice of medicine are completed, had no knowledge of the prescribing of the simplest remedies, nor had many of them any more than a passing knowledge of the techniques of prescribing or of the administration of the drugs whose pharmacological action they knew well enough theoretically."

"I believe that this state of affairs would be remedied by the establishment of a School of Pharmacy, by contact of the Medical School with such a college, and of the inevitable influence of such a college on the undergraduates in the School of Medicine."

"I know from my own experience of doctors newly going into practice how very much they rely on the assistance and advice and knowledge of pharmacists. It goes without saying that the better the standard of pharmacy training the more valuable will that influence be."

"It is a knowledge of the principles involved in the manufacture and standardisation and preparation of these agents (sterile solutions, etc.) which renders the professional man able to make a proper assessment of their place in the practice of medicine."

"The selection and assessment of the relative values of the newer preparations require a great deal of knowledge and discrimination, and my own belief is that, no matter how limited the indications become for the use of the newer preparations, and even though the number of therapeutic substances in use is greatly

reduced, there is still the need for an informed and well-trained pharmacy profession."

"The flood of new and valuable therapeutic substances has overwhelmed the newly-qualified medical man. He requires better guidance in the principles of therapeutics and pharmacy in his own course of training, and he requires after qualification contact with and guidance and assistance from a well-trained corps of pharmacists."

### PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR THE INDEPENDENT PHARMACY IN U.K.

The survival of the independent pharmacy owned by one or more private chemists presents a problem of growing magnitude and complexity, according to a statement in a recent issue of "The Pharmaceutical Journal." This Journal reveals that the latest returns of the Nielson marketing service show that for November and December, 1953, there was a further increase in the percentage of business passing through the multiples compared with the same period of 1952. This gain of from 34 to 34.3 per cent. was, it is stated, at the expense of the larger type of independent pharmacy which has a turnover of at least £11,000 per annum. Apparently the Business Purchase Fund of the National Pharmaceutical Union which has helped to retain many businesses in private hands has not overcome the problem altogether.

"The Pharmaceutical Journal" refers to discussion on the subject at a meeting of Welsh proprietor pharmacists at which two further comments were emphasised—(a) more partnerships, and (b) more apprentices in private pharmacies.

The writer of the article indicates how difficult it is to arrange partnerships of more than two persons, and also deplores the difficulty of inducing students to undergo their period of practical training in privately-owned retail pharmacies. It is pointed out that the larger companies have their own training schemes, with internal examinations, and that hospitals offer good remuneration to students before or after their examinations.

### PROTECTING THE PROFESSION

#### New Pharmaceutical Organisation in Ireland.

A new organisation of chemists has been formed in Ireland under the title "Irish Chemists' Representative Organisation." The "Irish Chemist and Druggist" for April, 1954, quotes from a circular issued by the sponsors. According to this, the objects include the consolidation of everybody on the Register of the Society into one solid block to fight for and protect the profession by every possible means at its disposal; to maintain traditional status as being the only body qualified to supply medicines, medical and surgical requisites, baby foods and other requirements appertaining to the health of the population.

The circular invites chemists to join the founders in the formation of what they describe as "the fighting arm of pharmacy."

# SCIENCE SECTION



EDITED BY A. T. S. SISSONS, B.Sc. F.P.S.

## ARTICLES

- British Pharmacopoeia, 1953.
- Insulin-Zinc Suspensions.
- Hospital Pharmacy in Great Britain.
- Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- Isoniazid Streptomycin, P.A.S.
- Treatment of Eczema
- Formation of Alkaloids in Plants.
- Synthesis of Tropine Alkaloids.

### BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA, 1953

Biological Specification and Biological Standards.

By Prof. A. A. Miles, C.B.E. (Lister Institute, London).

(Reprinted from *Nature*, March 6, 1954.)

A number of reputable drugs in common use today have been fully explored by chemists and physicians, so that we know their chemical constitution, and in many cases can synthesise them. In a publication like the "British Pharmacopoeia 1953," which specifies these drugs for public use, it is enough for most drugs to state the degrees of chemical purity required to ensure that the medical practitioner and the general public have medicines upon which they can rely. But there are a number of substances available for the prevention and cure of disease, usually obtained from animals or plants, which we recognise mainly by their biological activity, and although we know something of their chemistry, we do not know enough to recognise an active preparation by chemical tests alone.

Some of these "biologicals" may in time yield to chemical analysis, if they are small enough or simple enough in structure. It is significant that, of the substances in the "Pharmacopoeia" the molecular weight of which can be stated, only 16 are greater than 500 and two greater than 1000. We shall wait long for the chemistry of any active principle, not a polymer, that has a molecular weight much greater than 1000. In the meantime, drugs like insulin and the antitoxic globulins, with molecular weights in the tens and hundreds of thousands, and the various immunising antigens and vaccines, are quite beyond chemical specification. Apart from tests of identity, the most important biological specifications that complete the inadequate chemical and physical specifications in the pharmacopoeial monographs are the potency requirements. Now biological potency is by definition a measure of activity in some biological systems. The system may be a whole animal, such as a cat; part of an animal, like a guinea pig uterus or a suspension of red blood cells; or a culture of bacteria. Whatever the system, our first idea of potency is the amount of a substance that does something observable to it. Since we cannot test the activity in the human subject, we have in all cases to make the assumption that the effect we measure in the biological system is an indication of the effect we want to produce in the human patient. Sometimes that assumption proves to be unjustified, because we are using the wrong biological system, or observing the wrong effect in the right system; but in most cases it has proved to be correct. Our next

problem is to translate the effect we observe in the test system into a measure of the potency of the drug.

The estimation of potency as the amount of a substance that produces a defined response in a given biological system is subject to the notoriously high variability of such systems, including the day-to-day variability in one laboratory and variability between laboratories. The limits of error of such "direct" estimates of potency can only be guessed, and the reliability of such guesses parallels our success in achieving a precise specification of the biological test system—in most cases an impossibility. When we can make only very imprecise measures of potency, clearly we are in no position to specify a drug that is poisonous in an over-dose or endangers the success of the treatment in under-doses. Happily, in a number of substances the biological activity of which can be measured only by the direct method, over-dosage is not medically dangerous, and we can ensure that the patient gets enough by giving plenty. This state of affairs applies, for example, to the prophylactics used for the prevention of diphtheria. With a substance like insulin, where an over-dose may mean one kind of coma and an under-dose another kind, our methods must be precise. To substances like this it is possible to apply the more precise, "orthodox" bioassay, in which the biological test system is in effect specified for each assay by testing a standard preparation of the drug in parallel with the unknown. Potency is then expressed in terms of the standard, not, as in the direct assay, in terms of an unstandardisable animal or other biological object. Biological standards may be used in this way when the active material can be preserved in a stable form, and when it is reasonable to assume that the active principle in the standard is homogeneous and similar to that in the material being assayed; and that the biological response observed is due to the substance the therapeutic action of which it is intended to exploit. In the "British Pharmacopoeia" the biological standards prescribed for use are either international standards maintained by the World Health Organisation or, when there is no international standard, British standards established by the Medical Research Council.

Bioassay of a drug is sometimes called "standardisation." The term, however, should be confined to the establishment of the standard preparation. Thus, diphtheria antitoxin was standardised once and for all when, in 1922, the International Standard for Diphtheria Antitoxin was set up and units of potency accepted. Assays of potency made in terms of this standard are parts of the "specification" of therapeutic and other preparations of diphtheria antitoxin. We thus have a number of drugs the total specification of which, as in a phar-

macopoeial monograph, include a biological specification in terms of a standard and, where no standard is available, some much less precise biological specifications in terms of a biological test object.

The bioassays in the "British Pharmacopoeia 1953" are introduced by a section on the principles of modern bioassay. Most assays are now designed to yield answers such that the responses to graded doses of the standard and the test preparation can be transformed by suitable arithmetical manipulations into numerical values that will yield a linear response when plotted against the logarithm of the dose; and when both the standard and test preparation give substantially parallel linear dosage-responses, the potency ratio is readily derived from the logarithmic distance between the two lines. Since the 1948 "Pharmacopoeia," assay methods and biological standards have been made available for aureomycin, scarlet fever antitoxin, globin zinc insulin, d-tubocurarine and dimercaprol.

Globin zinc insulin is interesting because, although it is used clinically as a "delay" insulin, it is not possible to demonstrate any appreciable delay effect in rabbits without using prohibitive numbers of animals. Consequently, there is no test for delayed action in the "Pharmacopoeia."

The specification of immunological products leaves much to be desired from the formal point of view. In few of the antitoxins for which there are standards is an orthodox assay, with calculation of fiducial limits of error, prescribed; but the precision and accuracy that might be attained if better assays were defined are probably unnecessary. For a large group of substances—the living vaccinia virus which constitutes the smallpox vaccine, and the living suspension of B.C.G. (Bacillus of Calmette and Guerin), which is a tuberculosis vaccine—there are no biological standards; they are all assayed directly in laboratory animals, with the consequent risk of a highly variable result. With B.C.G. vaccine, the results of even the various direct assay and tests have only a retrospective interest, because they take three weeks to six months to complete, and the vaccine keeps its potency only 14 days after issue for use in man. The "dead" vaccines—that is, bacterial suspensions of killed typhoid and paratyphoid bacilli, whooping cough bacilli, plague bacilli, and so forth—are not assayed for potency at all. At present, reliance is placed on the selection of the right strain of microbe to start with, and its proper cultivation and treatment in the manufacture of the vaccine. In other words, the specification stresses the "pedigree" of the finished product as well as its properties at the date of issue.

With the exception of thrombin, haemoglobin and fibrinogen, none of the human blood products in the "Pharmacopoeia" can be assayed biologically, or even specified in any precise way; but there are precautions to be taken in selecting the donor, whose blood will be the source of the various blood products—"Whole Blood," "Human Serum" or "Fibrinogen," and so forth—all of which are, on the face of it, very sketchily described.

These gaps in the specifications are, however, only apparent. It must be emphasised that all such pharmacopoeial substances—immunological and human blood products—for which the biological specification is superficially inadequate are under the control of the Therapeutic Substances Act. That is to say, they can be manufactured for sale only under licence from the Ministry of Health; it is consequently not enough that a vaccine should be prepared in such a way that it passes a biological test as laid down in the "Pharmacopoeia." Its control ends, not begins, with the test of the finished product. It has always been the policy of the Ministry of Health in applying the Therapeutic Substances Regulations, and of the Medical Research Council in advising on the research aspects of their application, to recognise that the control of these biological substances begins in the producing laboratory, so that all stages from the raw material to the finished

product are in charge of expert staff who work so as to leave no loophole for variability so gross as to lead to unwanted results in the use of the drug.

The prescribed methods of control in the "Pharmacopoeia" are instructive in that they range from the simplest tests of activity in the animal to the most elaborate assays which in design and execution would satisfy the most meticulous biometrician. The differences necessarily reflect the differences in our current knowledge of these substances and how to handle them in the laboratory. Imperfection there must be, because we can often recognise and purify an active principle which it would be wrong to withhold from the practitioner of medicine until we know exactly what it is. But it is comforting to reflect that no such substance is included in the "Pharmacopoeia" unless the imperfections in our knowledge have been removed at least so far as knowing the potentialities of the drug, both beneficial and dangerous. The biological specifications in the "Pharmacopoeia" ensure that we know well enough what amount of a drug will have no effect; what amount will have a beneficial effect; and when the second amount is exceeded, where the danger zone begins.

## INSULIN-ZINC SUSPENSIONS

### Pharmaceutics and Manufacture.

By F. W. BYRON, M.P.S.

The advent of the insulin zinc suspensions (I.Z.S.) is the third landmark in the treatment of diabetes mellitus. The momentous discovery of insulin by Banting and Best in 1921 was followed 14 years later by the second landmark, the use of protamine to produce prolonged activity by Hagedorn. Since 1935 attempts have been made to obtain better control by the use of, for example, globin and surfin, by altering the insulin molecule (iso-insulin and di-insulin) and by modifying protamine zinc insulin to isophane insulin (N.P.H.).

In 1951 Hallas-Möller and his colleagues described the principle of the insulin zinc suspensions, and showed that insoluble crystals of insulin and zinc alone had a delay action similar to that of the protamine zinc insulin complex.

The main advantage of insulin zinc suspensions is that all the preparations can be mixed together and the mixture will remain stable. Each constituent, however, will retain its original characteristics. The development of such suspensions has been undertaken by Novo Terapeutisk Laboratorium A/S, Copenhagen, Denmark, and they have applied for patent coverage in many countries. The British manufacturers of insulin are manufacturing the products under licence from Novo Laboratories, and the Danish-made preparations are also being distributed in Great Britain. The British Pharmacopoeia Commission has approved names for the new preparations. They are listed below together with the original descriptions and the duration of activity normally accredited to each.

Approved Name	Original Name	Duration of Action (hours)
Insulin zinc suspension (amorphous)	Semilente	12-16
Insulin zinc suspension	Lente	24
Insulin zinc suspension (crystalline)	Ultralente	Over 24

The medium delay preparation, insulin zinc suspension (lente), is a mixture of 70 per cent. crystalline I.Z.S. and 30 per cent. amorphous I.Z.S. The vehicle and the pH is the same for all of the preparations.

Clinically, the main disadvantage of previous long-acting insulins is that they do not give a sufficiently large release of insulin to control the blood sugar imme-

dately after injection. That difficulty can be overcome only by giving two injections at the same time, one of soluble insulin and the other of long-acting insulin, or by mixing the two preparations in the syringe. The mixing method is unsatisfactory, and may lead to inaccurate dosage, particularly in self-administration. The long-acting insulins (except isophane insulin) in general use in Great Britain contain an excess of protein which reacts with any added soluble insulin to make a mixture with unpredictable activity. Sometimes the added protein produces local cutaneous reactions, particularly at the onset of treatment. As I.Z.S. contains no additional protein, the possibility of skin sensitisation is minimised.

Insulin zinc suspensions are suspensions of an insulin zinc complex in an acetate buffer containing zinc chloride, sodium chloride and a preservative. The physical form of the complex determines the duration of the hypoglycaemic effect. The quantity of zinc and the selection of the buffer play an important part in the preparation. The significance of zinc in the administration of insulin was demonstrated in 1934 when Scott discovered that the presence of at least one of the metals, zinc, cadmium, cobalt or nickel, was necessary for the crystallisation of insulin. He also produced evidence that crystalline insulin contains the metals as chemically combined constituents.

Since then much work has been done in that field, but it has been found that no delaying action is produced when small quantities of zinc are added to insulin solutions. On the other hand, Scott and Fisher demonstrated that zinc increased the range of activity of a protamine insulin complex.

Insulin, an amphoteric protein with its iso-electric point at  $\text{pH}$  5.2, is normally soluble at the  $\text{pH}$  of blood. However, Sahyun in 1939 precipitated insulin in the presence of zinc chloride at varying  $\text{pH}$  values, using sodium acetate as a buffer. He found that as the  $\text{pH}$  rose the amount of zinc present in the precipitate also increased and the insulin so produced was insoluble at  $\text{pH}$  7. Hallas-Möller and his colleagues later found the same phenomenon, and demonstrated that if phosphates or citrates were used as buffers the precipitate that formed at  $\text{pH}$  5.6 was completely soluble at  $\text{pH}$  7, but if an acetate buffer was used, the precipitate remained insoluble. From this they concluded that phosphate and citrate buffers had a greater affinity for zinc than had sodium acetate, and removed zinc from the insulin crystals. It was also shown by the Danish workers that insulin crystals suspended in a vehicle containing 2 mgm. of zinc per 1000 units contained about 0.5 per cent. of zinc at  $\text{pH}$  5 and about 2 per cent at  $\text{pH}$  7. That confirmed Sahyun's work that the uptake of zinc was a function of the  $\text{pH}$ . Ordinary crystalline insulin prepared by established methods shows a zinc content of approximately 0.4 per cent. Hallas-Möller and colleagues offered the theory that the structure of the insulin crystal permitted substances to enter the crystal by diffusion and react chemically with the insulin within the crystal lattice. Crystals that had the increased zinc content remained insoluble in water at  $\text{pH}$  7, providing phosphates were not present, and they had different biological reactions as well as physico-chemical ones.

Clinical trials showed that the action of this insoluble crystalline insulin-zinc preparation was prolonged to the same extent as the insoluble protamine insulin zinc complex. During these trials it was found that the extent of the delay was related to the physical state of the particles in suspension, whether amorphous or crystalline, and to the size of the crystals. When precipitated in an amorphous form the activity extended for 12 to 16 hours. With crystalline material the retardation was related to the size of the crystal, and those of about 10 to 30 $\mu$  gave a delay of 24 hours and over. The variation in particle form was achieved by precipitation at different  $\text{pH}$  values. Ordinary insulin-

zinc complex precipitated at its iso-electric point of  $\text{pH}$  5.2 is amorphous, but on standing changes to the crystalline form. The same phenomenon occurs with the complex containing a larger proportion of zinc, and when prepared in an acetate buffer and the  $\text{pH}$  is increased to that of blood it remains in its crystalline form, provided that enough zinc ions are in the vehicle. The amorphous solid can be prepared by precipitating directly at  $\text{pH}$  7.2, and it remains in the amorphous state. A mixture of amorphous and crystalline solids will remain stable in suspension at  $\text{pH}$  7 provided a minimum of 0.5 mgm. of zinc per 1000 units (or 2 mgm. per 100 mil) is present. According to a theory that insulin cannot be crystallised if the zinc content is greater than 0.8 per cent., amorphous insulin, which contains 2 per cent. of zinc at  $\text{pH}$  7, will remain stable in a solution containing zinc ions. The stability of the suspensions has been confirmed by microscopical examination.

In the commercial manufacture of the insulin zinc suspension now being undertaken by members of the British Insulin Manufacturers the first stage is the production of the special crystalline insulin. It is prepared from crystalline insulin described in the B.P. by additional crystallisations in the presence of an excess of zinc from a suitable medium. As each preparation has the same formula, the procedure during manufacture is critical. In making the suspension of the amorphous preparation the crystalline insulin is dissolved in a vehicle containing zinc. This is then sterilised and the amorphous insulin precipitated at  $\text{pH}$  7.2 by the addition of a sterile buffer solution. Methyl parahydroxybenzoate is included in the reacting solutions so that 0.1 per cent. is present in the final product.

The suspension of crystalline zinc insulin is prepared in a similar way, but the precipitation is carefully controlled at a lower  $\text{pH}$ . The precipitate which is originally amorphous changes to its crystalline form. The  $\text{pH}$  is finally adjusted with a sterile acetate buffer to 7.2, at which it will remain stable.

Insulin zinc suspension (lente), a mixture of 70 per cent. crystalline insulin and 30 per cent. amorphous insulin, is made by first preparing the appropriate quantity of crystalline insulin in suspension, and then adding it to a suspension of the amorphous material under sterile conditions.

The problem of handling the new preparations on a commercial scale has involved new techniques, but most of them have been mastered without much trouble. A problem that has presented difficulty, however, has been that of maintaining an even distribution of a very small quantity of solid throughout the vehicle during the rather lengthy aseptic filling operation. The solid content of the suspension to be filled as 1.7 mgm. per mil, the particles vary in size and shape, the viscosity is virtually the same as water, and sterile conditions have to be observed throughout the process. Carefully-designed tanks have now been constructed which keep the particles well dispersed without producing froth. Adequate controls ensure that the correct quantity of solid in the right proportions of crystalline to amorphous particles is delivered to each vial. The stirred suspension is fed to a semi-automatic filling machine, the dose is measured by an all-glass syringe, and is delivered into a sterile vial. The filled vial is removed mechanically. Sterile rubber plugs are fitted, and then aluminium rings are rimmed on tightly.

In addition to the bacteriological and pharmacological control imposed by the Therapeutic Substances Act, biological tests for delayed activity and for the absence of activity in the supernatant vehicle have to be applied in accordance with that legislation. The preparations are controlled chemically too. The licensing authorities under the T.S.A. have agreed to the preparations having a life of two years.

The preparations have a potentially big future, as they offer to the great majority of diabetics the possi-

bility of control with only one injection a day. The Danish workers claim that 85-90 per cent. of cases can be controlled by the mixed suspension (lente). More recently a number of clinical trials have been made in Britain.

It is desirable that as many patients as possible shall be adjusted to available commercial preparations, but doctors may call for other mixtures. However, under the Therapeutic Substances Regulations as at present, no mixtures of insulin may be issued without the approval of the licensing authority. Small quantities cannot be made, as the cost of biological assay is high, and the Regulations rule out the dispensing of mixtures from already approved manufacturers' products.

It should be noted that soluble insulin when added to I.Z.S. does not produce the immediate response that would be expected, as has been demonstrated by Nabarro and Stowers. The explanation is that when soluble insulin is added to I.Z.S. the conditions are suitable for its precipitation as an insoluble insulin zinc complex. That is because soluble insulin preparations do not contain phosphate and the zinc content of the mixture is above the minimum of 0.5 mgm. per 1000 units (provided it is not diluted to more than four times the original volume of the I.Z.S.). However, the pH of the resulting mixture will be reduced, possibly, to within the zone in which crystallisation of the amorphous complex occurs. The drop in pH of the mixture will depend on the exact pH of the soluble insulin (B.P. limits 3-3.5), the buffer available in the particular batch of I.Z.S., and the volumes involved. Consequently the physical state of the precipitate cannot be predicted, and so in certain circumstances instead of a greater initial response being obtained the delay action of the mixture may be increased.

[The article has been prepared with the permission of Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd., and the British Insulin Manufacturers' Association.]

## HOSPITAL PHARMACY IN GREAT BRITAIN

By T. D. Whittet, B.Sc., F.P.S., A.R.I.C., D.B.A.  
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College Hospital, London.

Although the position of the pharmacist as the rightful person to handle drugs and compound medicines and as the authorised controller of poisons has been legally recognised in Britain for over 100 years, there is, as yet, no obligation for hospitals to employ pharmacists. Most of the oldest hospitals were founded as monastic institutions, and such pharmacy as was practised was under the care of monk-apothecaries.

The tradition of the apothecaries continued through several centuries, and even though in this country the apothecaries became medical practitioners as a result of the Apothecaries Act in 1815, and most of pharmacy passed to the chemists and druggists after the founding of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1841, apothecaries continued to be in charge of hospital pharmacies until about the 1860's.

In this hospital, which was actually founded as London University Dispensary in 1828, apothecaries were in charge of the pharmacy from that date until the appointment of the first pharmacist, William Martindale, in 1868.

Among the apothecaries were several who became famous in medicine. The second apothecary, John Taylor, later became Professor of Medicine, and the third, Richard Quain, was created a baronet and became a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was a physician to Queen Victoria.

The fourth apothecary, Joseph Clover, became the first specialist anaesthetist, and invented several anaesthetic apparatuses. A later apothecary was Sydney

Ringer, who eventually became Professor of Materia Medica and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was one of the founders of modern pharmacology.

Since the advent of the National Health Service, in 1948, British hospitals have been grouped together either under the Teaching Hospitals or Regional Boards, and pharmacists are now responsible for the pharmaceutical services of most hospitals in the country. Although almost all hospitals now belong to the State, and a certain amount of standardisation has been introduced, there is still a very wide variety in the type of work undertaken.

In some hospital pharmacies a large amount of manufacturing is undertaken, whilst in others only routine extemporaneous dispensing is carried out.

Some pharmacists are also responsible for dressings, surgical sundries and instruments, and may also supervise the syringe service and sterilisation of dressings.

It would, of course, be quite uneconomical for every small hospital to prepare all its own injections, tablets, etc., but the group system can make it well worth while for many preparations to be manufactured by mutual agreement between the pharmacists in the group. In my opinion there should be one hospital in every group capable of undertaking the formulation and preparation of most pharmaceutical products, otherwise the medical staff and patients in that group are not receiving an adequate pharmaceutical service, and prescribing will be restricted to preparations available from commercial sources.

### Advisory Duties of the Pharmacist.

With the tremendous increase in the number and complexity of drugs over the past few years, as well as other advances in medicine, the busy medical practitioner cannot be expected to be familiar with every aspect of new drugs. This is our opportunity. We must not be content until the pharmacist is recognised as the authority on every aspect of drugs—chemical and physical properties, stability towards sterilisation and storage, action, uses and dosage. The eventual role of the pharmacist should be to advise on the most effective drug to prescribe in its most suitable pharmaceutical form for the patient whose condition the physician has diagnosed. This does in fact occur in several of the larger hospitals now, and in some instances the pharmacist may even be asked to see the patient to advise on treatment.

To perform this duty adequately the pharmacist must keep up to date with the pharmaceutical, pharmacological and medical journals. This entails considerable effort, but is most interesting, and makes the pharmacist a true colleague of the physician. It also requires the provision of a good departmental library. Any steps taken in this direction, however, will be amply repaid by the added prestige and respect gained for the department.

The recently-introduced syllabus for the honours degree in Pharmacy of London University allows the student to specialise in general pharmaceutics and pharmacology, with the express purpose of fitting him for the post of chief pharmacist in a hospital.

### Routine Work.

The following account of the routine of hospital pharmacy will illustrate the variety of work undertaken.

In practically all hospitals the various wards are allowed a stock of the most commonly-used preparations, and one of the first duties of the day is to supply these in the daily "ward basket." It is now usual to adopt a "pre-packed" system in which the empty containers are replaced by full ones kept ready to speed up this work at one of the busiest times of the day. The empties can then be refilled together later in the day and cleaned or relabelled if necessary.

In most hospitals there are busy outpatient clinics and a wide variety of drugs is dispensed. This can

become somewhat of a routine, but many extemporal preparations are prescribed, especially by the dermatologists. In the smaller hospitals each pharmacist will probably work at dispensing, manufacturing and preparation of sterile solutions at different times during the day, whereas in the larger ones the department will be divided into sections dealing with dispensing, manufacturing and sterile products, but even then the staff are usually changed round at intervals so that boredom is unlikely.

In the teaching hospitals the staff usually consists of the chief pharmacist, a deputy chief, a senior pharmacist in each of the main sections, several qualified assistants, plus technicians, clerical staff, porters and cleaners. The work of the chief, in addition to overall responsibility for the efficient running of the department, includes teaching both medical students and nurses, and possibly dental students, acting as consultant to the medical staff on all problems connected with drugs and conducting research on matters connected with pharmacy.

The importance of the teaching duties of the pharmacist cannot be over-emphasised, for they bring him into contact with doctors and nurses at the very outset of their careers, and their opinions of pharmacy as a whole may be coloured by the impression gained then.

In my opinion the hospitals should also be training grounds for pharmacists, and at University College Hospital we have an establishment of four pharmacy students. These may be either undergraduates, who serve two years, or post-graduates, who serve one year. The students spend some time in each of the three sections of the department and at our branch hospital at St. Pancras. Tutorials are held from time to time, and the students are encouraged to take an interest in and help with research. We hope to be able to have an extra post-graduate student soon, so that one can act as full-time assistant in pharmaceutical research.

There has been some controversy about the desirability or otherwise of employing technicians in hospital pharmacy. There must, of course, always be a sufficient number of pharmacists in every department to act as advisers to the medical and nursing staff, and to carry out all those duties for which a qualified person is essential. There are, however, many routine jobs, such as ampoule filling and sealing, etc., which can be carried out quite efficiently by technicians working under the supervision of a pharmacist. It is a waste of pharmaceutical manpower and most uneconomical to use qualified staff for simple routine work. My opinion is that in a hospital pharmacy everyone coming into contact with medical or nursing staff and patients, when professional advice may be required, must be a pharmacist, and also there must be sufficient pharmacists to ensure that late evening and week-end duties do not come round too frequently. When these essential conditions are fulfilled, the employment of additional technical staff for routine jobs frees the pharmacists for truly professional work.

There has been no recognised training or certification for technicians or dispensers. The Society of Apothecaries has conducted an examination for assistants in dispensing since 1815. Most of the holders of this certificate were employed as dispensers to doctors who had dispensing practices and comparatively few in hospitals. Since the start of the National Health Service dispensing has mostly passed to the retail pharmacists, and few medical practices now employ dispensers.

The Society of Apothecaries has decided to revise its syllabus to equip its assistants to act as technicians in hospitals, and I have been asked to advise in this revision.

The Whitley Council Scale for Assistants in Dispensing in Hospitals grants an extra allowance for those holding the certificate of the Society of Apothecaries or an Army School of Dispensing Certificate.

#### University College Hospital.

The following description of the Pharmacy of University College Hospital will illustrate the type of work carried out in a busy teaching hospital.

The University College Hospital group of teaching hospitals comprises the Main Hospital, the Private Patients' Wing, the Obstetric Hospital and the Royal Ear Hospital, all on adjoining sites. Nearby are the National Dental Hospital and the annexe which contains beds for tuberculous patients and the Psychiatric Outpatients Department. About a mile away is St. Pancras Hospital, a large general hospital with a mental observation block, and the Thomas Barlow Home (a special geriatric unit). In the grounds of St. Pancras Hospital is the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. Associated with the latter is a leper hospital which is situated in the country about 25 miles from London.

Closely associated with the hospital and adjoining the main buildings are the Medical School, Dental School, School of Nursing and the Faculty of Medical Sciences of University College.

The Pharmaceutical Department supplies all drugs, dressings and medical gases to the whole hospital group. There is a small pharmacy in the Obstetric Hospital, to serve the Antenatal and Infant Welfare Clinics, whilst at St. Pancras there is a department with a chief pharmacist with a post-graduate student and a porter as his assistants. Drugs and reagents are also supplied to the Medical School, Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Student Health Service.

The present establishment of staff, exclusive of St. Pancras, is a chief pharmacist, a deputy chief, three senior pharmacists, seven pharmacists, three pharmacy students, a secretary, a clerk, two storekeepers, three porters and three cleaners.

The total annual expenditure on drugs and dressings amounts to about £100,000, of which as much as one-third is on antibiotics. The number of different items handled in the department is about 5000.

#### Dispensing Section.

This section is responsible for the preparation and supply of medicines for both inpatients and outpatients. Each morning the prescription charts for individual patients are collected from the wards, and the medicines are prepared and placed on a trolley just inside the main entrance of the pharmacy. If required during the morning, they can be collected by the nursing staff; otherwise they are delivered by the departmental porters at noon. Similarly, any prescriptions brought down during the afternoon are delivered at 5 p.m.

Those prescriptions dispensed after 5 p.m. by the late duty staff are placed in lockers to which the nursing staff have access after the department is closed.

Outpatients bring their prescription charts to one of the three windows in the pharmacy waiting room, and most of the prescriptions are dispensed extemporaneously. The average weekly number is 1500.

An index, giving the position of every drug in the dispensing section, is prominently displayed just inside the main entrance, and they are arranged so that all those of the same type are together. Thus all the injectable preparations are in one fitting, tablets in another, biological drugs in the cold storage room, etc. When the department is closed, the resident medical officer and casualty officer have access to the dispensing section which contains all drugs likely to be needed in an emergency.

Also included in the Dispensing Section is a display case containing a selection of all types of pharmaceutical preparations and many groups of drugs for the convenience of medical students taking pharmacology examinations.

#### Manufacturing Laboratory.

The manufacturing laboratory is one of the best equipped hospital laboratories in the country. Appa-

ratus is available for the disintegration, grinding, extraction and concentration of crude drugs, and many galenicals are prepared from such drugs. Thus extract of liquorice is prepared from the rhizome and cascara extracts from the bark. Many other syrups, tinctures, extracts, etc., of the British and University College Hospital Pharmacopoeias are prepared from the raw materials.

Machinery is available for making ointments, pastes, emulsions, suppositories and tablets on a large scale. Filtration and distillation can be carried out rapidly and efficiently by means of the appropriate equipment. The manufacture of tablets is a very important task, and machinery is installed for the preparing and coating of tablets. We are frequently called upon to prepare new drugs as tablets for clinical trials and often to supply blank tablets for controls. The preparation of some of the latter often calls for considerable ingenuity to make them indistinguishable in taste and appearance from the active drug and yet be without pharmacological action.

The manufacturing laboratory is responsible for the renewal of ward stocks. Ward baskets are collected from each ward every morning, and the preparations required are returned in them at about 11 a.m. A pre-packing system is adopted to save time during the busiest period of the morning.

Dressings are issued to the wards once a week, and their handling involves considerable labour. Another item calling for similar heavy work is the daily delivery of medical gases, especially oxygen.

#### Sterilisation Laboratory.

In the sterilisation laboratory most of the infusion fluids and other injections used in the hospital are prepared.

Infusion fluids are issued in half and one litre infusion bottles, similar to those used for blood, plasma and plasma substitutes, so that the same type of giving sets can be used for all intravenous infusions throughout the whole hospital group. Other injections are placed in rubber-capped bottles or ampoules, whichever is the more suitable for the particular preparation. Apart from injectable preparations, sterile water and physiological saline are provided for use on the wards for washing wounds and for bladder irrigation, etc. Sterile dusting powders are provided for use on wounds, for dusting surgeons' gloves, etc. We are one of the very few hospitals preparing spinal anaesthetic solutions. The preparation of sterile paraffin and tulle gras is carried out in the manufacturing department.

The policy adopted throughout the department is not to buy anything which can be manufactured. This results in considerable saving to the hospital with many preparations, particularly with infusion fluids and other injections. The ability to manufacture almost any type of medicament can be of great service to the medical staff, who are thus not tied down to standard preparations, but can have practically any formula made at relatively short notice. The department is well equipped to undertake research into methods of presentation of medicaments, and we welcome opportunities of doing so.

The pharmacist is responsible for the safe storage of all dangerous drugs and poisons throughout the hospital, and must arrange for the ward poison cupboards to be inspected every three months.

Although salaries in hospital may not be on the whole as high as in other branches of our profession, hospital pharmacy has many advantages to offer. Working hours are short. The salary scales are based on a 39-hour week, and extra fees are paid for late duty clinics. Holidays vary from three weeks in the ordinary grade to six weeks for the chief pharmacist of a large hospital. The work is varied and pleasant, and gives ample opportunity for the use of most of one's academic training. For many of us the principal attraction is

the knowledge that we are in the forefront of the battle against disease.

Hospital pharmacy offers many opportunities for research into the stability and formulation of drugs. Much of this work can be done without elaborate apparatus, and can be carried out in the ordinary pharmaceutical department.

Every chief pharmacist of University College Hospital has published research papers during his time at the hospital. William Martindale, who was here from 1868 to 1873, worked with Lord Lister in the development of the use of amyl nitrite and glyceryl trinitrate for the treatment of angina pectoris. He invented the crushable glass ampoule which was the forerunner of the ampoule. His name has become immortal as the founder of the Extra Pharmacopoeia, popularly known as Martindale.

A. W. Gerrard, who was here from 1873 to 1895, published no fewer than 44 research papers during that time. Several of these were of fundamental importance, including the first isolation of pilocarpine from jaborandi leaves.

W. Elborne, who died as recently as 1952 at the age of 96, was pharmacist from 1895 until 1899, and both he and his successor, H. Wilson (1899 to 1904), published numerous papers on vegetable drugs.

R. R. Bennett (1904 to 1914), now living in retirement in Eastbourne, was one of the pioneers of the sterilisation of drugs and of standardisation of galenical preparations.

Dr. C. H. Hampshire (1914 to 1929) also published work on the standardisation of drugs, and has been Editor of the Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology since 1924, and is Chairman of the International Pharmacopoeia Committee.

Dr. H. Davis (1929 to 1947) did fundamental work on methods of pharmaceutical sterilisation, and it was largely due to his research that we owe the B.P. method of "heating with a bactericide." He was also responsible for the B.P. formulae for Dakin's Solution and Tincture of Digitalis.

Since 1947 papers published from the Department include those on the stability of adrenaline, ammonium bicarbonate, morphine sulphate, the sulphanilamides and glutamic acid, and on extract of cascara. Research is now being carried out on pyrogens.

Most of the posts in hospital pharmacy are open to those with the ordinary qualification, but some of the larger hospitals insist on the higher qualification for the chief pharmacist's post.

Although the majority of chief pharmacists of teaching hospitals at present do not hold university degrees, it is highly desirable that future appointments should be given to university graduates. The graduate can become a recognised teacher in pharmacy of his university, and is eligible for membership of the Departmental Board of Medicine of his medical school. He thus enjoys the same status as the other teaching staff of the medical school. In several of the teaching hospitals the pharmacists also dine with the professorial staff and consultants. The non-graduate will always be at a disadvantage compared with his medical colleague.

The following comments on the teaching duties of the hospital pharmacist are taken from my paper read at the General Assembly of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (Paris 1953).

The teaching duties of the hospital pharmacist are of very great importance, since the impressions of pharmacy gained by the medical or dental students or nurses during their training may influence them in their attitude towards our profession for the rest of their careers. It is essential, therefore, that teachers should have the highest qualifications possible and the right type of personality for this type of work. They must keep up to date in the developments of medicine and pharmacy, and be capable of discussing them

authoritatively both with the students and their fellow teachers.

Each teaching hospital should be equipped with adequate apparatus and staff so that it can function as a centre of pharmaceutical research. The chief pharmacist should be capable of conducting fundamental research, and should be allowed both time and adequate assistance to do so. A post-graduate assistant having a university degree might act as a full-time research assistant. It should also be possible for pharmacy graduates to work for a doctorate in teaching hospitals. In the normal routine of a hospital pharmacy many problems occur, and thus the teaching hospital pharmacist is in an even more favourable position than his purely academic colleague for the initiation of research.

In the non-teaching hospitals and smaller hospitals it would obviously be impracticable for them all to be equipped for fundamental pharmaceutical research, but there should be at least one hospital in each group with a pharmacy and pharmacists capable of tackling the practical problems which arise almost daily in hospital work.

Hospitals should play their full part in the training of pharmacy students, who should be supernumerary to the normal establishment, and thus allowed adequate time for studying the various aspects of hospital pharmacy.

#### Pharmaceutical Committees.

Most British teaching hospitals have pharmaceutical committees which meet regularly to consider all matters concerned with the pharmaceutical service of the hospital. Such committees give pharmacists the opportunity of discussing matters of mutual interest with members of the medical and surgical staffs.

#### Hospital Pharmacopoeias.

Most of the teaching hospitals have had pharmacopoeias of their own. Some of these have a great tradition, a few having been founded before the British Pharmacopoeia. Since the introduction of the National Formulary most hospitals are confining their own pharmacopoeias to special formulae peculiar to the individual hospital and to general information.

#### The Guild of Public Pharmacists.

Hospital pharmacists in Great Britain have their own representative body—the Guild of Public Pharmacists. It was formed in 1923 by the fusion of the Public Pharmacists' Association with an Association of London Hospital Pharmacists. From a comparatively small beginning it has now become an important factor in British pharmacy.

The Guild is a voluntary body. It has a democratically-elected council, including both ordinary members of council and district councillors elected by the members of various parts of the country. In addition to the central executive, there are branches in all parts of the country. Every member thus has the opportunity of taking part in the corporate activities of the parent body.

The function of the Guild is twofold. In addition to furthering the interests of pharmacy by combined action on matters of vital interest to the members, it serves to bring pharmacists closer together by means of social events and by scientific meetings and discussions.

The Guild has published its own official organ, "The Public Pharmacist," since 1932. This publication appears quarterly. It deals with both the political and scientific aspects of hospital pharmacy. Also it provides useful abstracts and interesting personal notes about members.

This account shows that, in spite of the setback our profession received when the apothecaries went over into medicine, much of the lost ground has been retrieved, and British hospital pharmacy is making steady progress towards its rightful place as the full partner of medicine in the Health Service.

## PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

A clinical trial to investigate the place of isoniazid alone and in combination with other drugs was started at Guy's Hospital in March, 1952, by C. J. Joiner and his colleagues, and a report of the first year's results has been published (*Lancet*, 1953, 2, 152). The 68 patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were divided in the following way: Group A was treated with isoniazid and compared with group B which received isoniazid and streptomycin. Group C, also treated with isoniazid and streptomycin, was compared with Group D on streptomycin and P.A.S. The doses given were: Isoniazid 250 mgm. daily; streptomycin sulphate 1 gm. six times a week; and P.A.S. 10 gm. daily. The best results were observed in the patients receiving isoniazid plus streptomycin—considered at present to be the method of choice. The authors confirm that isoniazid alone has no place in the treatment of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis; initial improvement was nearly always followed by relapse, after which further treatment with isoniazid was useless.—*Pharm. J.*, August 1, 1953.

## ISONIAZID STREPTOMYCIN, P.A.S.

#### Sensitivity Tests.

A laboratory sub-committee of the Medical Research Council's Tuberculosis Chemotherapy Trials Committee, which has already investigated the determination of bacterial sensitivity to isoniazid, has now described in greater detail tests for estimating the bacterial sensitivity of tubercle bacilli to isoniazid, streptomycin and p-aminosalicylic acid (P.A.S.) (*Lancet*, 1953, 2, 213). Tests are undertaken on cultures of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv with stock solutions of isoniazid 1 per cent., streptomycin 1 per cent., and P.A.S. (pure sodium salt, dihydrate) 0.2 per cent. Readings of isoniazid sensitivity were made after two and four weeks' incubation; the first may yield early information indicating a resistant strain, but the second is regarded as the definitive reading.

Results of streptomycin tests are expressed as a resistance ratio: where the test organism was inhibited by 1 unit per mil and H37Rv by 0.25 units per mil, the resistance ratio was 4. All strains in which the resistance ratio was 8 or more were classified as resistant. A similar definition of resistant strains was made with P.A.S. It was assumed that none of the strains of tubercle bacilli obtained before treatment had previously come into contact with isoniazid, but that patients receiving streptomycin or isoniazid might be infected with a strain resistant to either or both drugs. Assuming that naturally resistant strains are either very rare or non-existent, it was found that one patient in a sample of 104 had been initially infected with P.A.S.-resistant organisms; otherwise sensitivity to streptomycin and to P.A.S. was "remarkably constant."—*Pharm. J.*, August 8, 1953.

## TREATMENT OF ECZEMA

In a lecture on the treatment of eczema (reported in the *Lancet* of July 25) Dr. John T. Ingram, of the Skin Department, Leeds Infirmary, defines the condition as "a catarrhal reaction of the skin provoked by some irritant influence acting from without or from within the patient." The considerations involved are thus individual and personal, and the removal of a precipitating cause often leaves nothing further to treat.

After discussing patterns of constitutional reaction, external and internal causes, he deals with local treatment. The bath should be tried, preferably with the addition of potassium permanganate (1 in 8000), as its effect is soothing, antipruritic, antiseptic and astringent; permanganate wet soaks are also recommended. Although the application of calamine lotion for the next

stage of the treatment is advised, he finds the *Lotio Calaminae Oleosa* of the National Formulary of little use for this purpose, and suggests the following emulsion:

Calamine . . . . .	40 grains
Lanoline . . . . .	30 grains
Olive oil . . . . .	½ fl. oz.
Lime water . . . . .	to 1 fl. oz.

Particular emphasis is attached to the physical character of applications, pastes being considered the most suitable. A plea is made for more exactitude and uniformity about the dispensing of preparations such as Lassar's paste (considered to be invaluable for eczema) which is required to be perfectly smooth and rather dry. Variation may be caused by using soft paraffin of different melting point; the B.P. allows a range from 38° to 46° C., but the most satisfactory for Lassar's paste is 38° to 40° C.—Pharm. J., August 1, 1953.

## FORMATION OF ALKALOIDS IN PLANTS

### Special Lectures.

Under the aegis of the Board of Studies in Pharmacy, University of London, two special lectures were given at 17 Bloomsbury Square. The lecturer was Dr. W. O. James, F.R.S., Reader in Botany, University of Oxford, and his subject was "The Formation of Alkaloids in Plants." Dr. J. W. Fairbairn, Reader in Pharmacognosy, University of London, presided over a large audience. The following summary of the two lectures has been issued:

### Distribution.

The distribution of alkaloids in plants has been extensively examined, especially by Errera and his school at Brussels in 1886 to 1906, making careful use of the iodine precipitation method. Four main tendencies were established largely independent of the kind of alkaloid and the species of plant. Alkaloids are most abundantly found in (1) actively growing and metabolising tissues, (2) epidermal and hypodermal tissues, (3) vascular sheaths, (4) latex vessels, where present. Dead cells rarely contain alkaloids until after the death of the plant as a whole. Within the cell, alkaloids are limited to the vacuole, where they occur as salts of common plant acids, or occasionally of special acids such as cinchotannic acid. Alkaloids increase in amount rapidly during cell vacuolation, and may remain stable in the cell or subsequently disappear as it ages. During the germination of seedlings, alkaloids tend to disappear from reserve tissues and to accumulate in the growing embryo, and may continue to accumulate throughout the life history of the plant. In some plants, like barley, alkaloids disappear after the seedling stages.

### Solanaceous Grafts.

By the use of solanaceous grafts, it has been shown that alkaloids of the tropane and nicotine series appear to be formed in the roots and to be raised in the transpiration stream to the leaves. There is, however, evidence that the final stages in the synthesis of anabasine, noronicotine, meteloidine, and possibly hyoscyanine, may sometimes also occur in leaves. In various special grafts it has been shown that alkaloids may be exported away from leaves into the roots and underground tubers; but not, apparently, into fruits. Such translocation appears to occur through the phloem.

Biosynthetic mechanisms of alkaloid synthesis have proved very difficult to unravel for all the groups of alkaloids for which it has been attempted. The relatively simple synthesis of hordenine in barley roots is now well attested in its final stages; but its origin from the amino-acid tyrosine is still open to doubt.

It is doubtful whether alkaloid-forming plants derive any advantage from their formation, which is attributed

to the results of gene mutations causing disturbances in an established course of nitrogen metabolism. Small results of a single mutation may lead to the establishment of quite lengthy new reaction-chains, on account of the complexity of the system in which they are working. The final result will not necessarily be advantageous to the plant.—Pharm. J., August 22, 1953.

## SYNTHESIS OF TROPANE ALKALOIDS

### Production on a Commercial Scale.

Up to the present time natural sources have been employed for the production of all the tropane alkaloids—atropine, homatropine, hyoscine and hyoscyamine—although the synthesis of atropine and its constituent basic alcohol tropine was one of the earliest alkaloid syntheses carried out (Willstätter, 1896; Wolfenstein and Mamlock, 1908). The plant sources used, depending upon availability and cost, have included *Atropa belladonna*, *Hyoscyamus muticus*, and, more recently, *Duboisia leichhardtii*. During the past three years, work carried out in the Research Department of T. and H. Smith Ltd., who have been associated with production of tropane alkaloids from natural sources for nearly 50 years, has resulted in the production of synthetic tropine. Some of the processes are the subject of patents issued or applied for.

The importance of the tropane alkaloids is emphasised by the fact that atropine is recognised as the only proven antidote to nerve gases, and can therefore be regarded as a strategic material. Its production by synthesis would eliminate the need for bulky imports of plant material in time of war. Homatropine methylbromide has achieved considerable popularity of late in the treatment of gastric disorder, including gastrointestinal spasm and peptic ulceration. Atropine methonitrate finds increasing use in bronchial asthma and symptomatic relief of whooping cough.

Despite the greatly improved synthesis introduced by Robinson (1917) for preparing tropinone, the precursor of tropine, by condensation of methylamine, succindialdehyde and acetone, these alkaloids have continued to be obtained from natural imported raw materials because of the difficulty experienced in the preparation of succindialdehyde. Until recently the only feasible route was from pyrrole, and the process is uneconomic. Furan has lately attracted considerable attention as a raw material. It has been shown independently by workers in the U.S.A. and in Britain that it can be used as an economic source of succindialdehyde. The conversion of furan to succindialdehyde and condensation of the latter with methylamine and acetone are outwardly straightforward. In all technical synthesis considerable investigation is required to bring yields of all the stages involved up to an economic level. Hyoscyamine, which is the laevorotatory isomer of atropine, can be produced by resolution of atropine.

Tropic acid is required for production of atropine and an improved synthesis suitable for large-scale operation has been worked out by chemists of Messrs. Smith and established. Tropine and tropic acid are constituents of other synthetic drugs, and further possibilities have been raised by the recent report that the alkaloid togloidine, a minor alkaloid of *Duboisia myoporoides*, is of value in Parkinson's disease. Supplies of the synthetic alkaloid were made available for clinical trial. The required pseudotropine can readily be produced from tropinone.

The number of naturally occurring alkaloids and other active principles which have been successfully synthesised on a commercial scale is relatively small, and the addition of the tropine group is therefore a significant indication of the increasing importance of synthetic work in the pharmaceutical field.—Pharm. J., January, 1954.

## DISPENSING PROBLEMS

### Ichthammol with Liquid Zinc Cream.

R/

Ichthammol . . . . 60 grains  
Liquid Zinc Cream 2 fl. oz.

The Zinc Cream was rubbed down in a warmed mortar with Arachis Oil and the Lime Water added and triturated until a uniform cream was obtained. The Ichthammol was added and well stirred, but the preparation showed a persistent brown streak which was not eliminated by the addition of Wool Alcohols or Oleic Acid.

On remaking the preparation it was decided to incorporate more Calcium Hydroxide by using a proportion of Liq. Calc. Sacch. B.P.C. The Arachis Oil was mixed with 120 minimis of Liq. Calc. Sacch. and Aq. Calcis ad, and an unsatisfactory emulsion resulted. Replacement of the Arachis Oil with Olive Oil gave a good emulsion which was then triturated with the Zinc Cream in a warmed mortar and the Ichthammol incorporated. This preparation was quite homogeneous.

Ichthammol frequently causes separation of Lime Water creams and emulsions. There may be a tendency for the Ammonium Ichthosulphonate to form Oil/Water emulsions which upset the Water/Oil emulsion prepared by Calcium Oleate. On this basis an excess of Calcium Hydroxide as provided by the Liq. Calc. Sacch. should overcome this tendency. A contributing factor in this case would appear to be a deficiency of fatty acid in the Arachis Oil used in the original preparation.

—D.L. (Vic.).

### Chloramphenicol Cream.

The British National Health Service Tariff includes the following formula to be dispensed for prescriptions of chloramphenicol cream where no formula is specified by the prescriber:-

Chloramphenicol . . . . .	1 Gm.
Propylene Glycol . . . . .	50 Gm.
Polyethylene Glycol 4000 . . . . .	49 Gm.

—P.J., Dec., 1953.

### Effervescence in Gargle.

R/

Pot. Chlorat. . . . .	240 gr.
Glycer. Acid. Carbol. . . . .	180 m.
Glycer. Acid. Boric.	
Glycer. Borac.	
Glycer. Thymol. Rub. aa. . .	1 fl. oz.
Aq. ad . . . . .	8 fl. oz.
Sig. 2 fl. dr. to 4 fl. oz. of warm water; and gargle	
night and morning.	

The Sodium Bicarbonate in the Glycer. Thymol. Rub. causes effervescence with the second and third ingredients which are acid in reaction. We allowed the effervescence to proceed by stirring in a mortar.

—J.C. (Vic.).



### Lanoline and Rose Water Cream.

Advice was sought for a method of preparation for the following:-

R/

Lanoline  
Rose Water  
of each 1 oz.

It was suggested that the quantity of Wool Fat required to make 1 oz. of Lanoline (7/10ths oz.) should be mixed with fixed oil in place of the water content of the oz. of Lanoline (3/10ths oz.) in a warmed mortar, and the Rose Water incorporated while stirring. A smooth white emollient cream resulted.

It is interesting to note that, although seven parts of Wool Fat is saturated with three parts of water in the preparation of Lanoline, admixture of the Wool Fat with fixed oil, or fat, allows a much larger amount of water to be incorporated.

—M.J. (Vic.).

### Strength of Medicament Aids Interpretation.

Vioform 3%  
(Ciba)  
Barmer cream ad.;  
up incusi }  
med 3%:  
by: - appt. t.d.

The strength of Vioform in skin creams (viz. 3%) is an aid to interpreting the above prescription. At first glance the prescription could be read as:-

Vioform (Ciba) 3 f (30 gr.).

—M.V.M. (Vic.).

### Polymyxin Eye Drops.

To make polymyxin eye drops the sulphate of Polymyxin is recommended in a concentration of 10,000 units per ml.

—G.K.T. (Vic.).

# Economics of Pharmacy

By H. W. Tomski, B.Com. (Lond.), M.P.S., D.B.A., Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

The Journal is pleased to announce that Mr. H. W. Tomski, noted British writer and acknowledged authority in the field of Economics of Pharmacy, has agreed to contribute to our pages a series of articles on this important subject.

In this, the first article of the series, an historical background, showing the development of pharmacy as a specialised calling and the consequent emergence of economic problems, is given. In his next article Mr. Tomski will discuss The Law of Diminishing Returns as related to pharmacy. In this article he will discuss practical aspects of maintaining efficient output as staff and accommodation must be increased to cope with expanding business.

## (1) INTRODUCTION.

Economics deals with the business of life and is, therefore, as old as life itself. The science of economics, however, is of far more recent origin. Economic problems existed ever since the beginning of mankind, although their implications were relatively unimportant, and very little thought was given to their solution. Only when society created a complex industrial system, attempts were made to classify knowledge in a methodical manner and to draw guiding conclusions from careful observations. Focusing attention on human behaviour, the science of economics began to concern itself with the "administration or distribution of resources between alternative modes of employment for those resources," formulating its laws by studying human reactions under varying conditions of scarcity.

Students of history and art always marvel at the high standard of craftsmanship and civilisation displayed during the Graeco-Roman period, a period which witnessed the emergence of pharmacy as a respected calling. Many of the teachings, institutions and amenities known to ancient Greece were subsequently lost to mankind and did not re-appear until the dark cloud of the Middle Ages was finally lifted, ushering in the period of great industrial and commercial complexity.

Aristotle, the eminent Greek philosopher and biologist, is considered by many the first of a series of well-known pharmacists who has made his mark in the field of science and medicine. Indeed, his fame almost over-shadowed the fact that the young Aristotle sold drugs and antidotes in the common market place, but pharmacists would like to think that it was here that his thoughts first turned to economics. The size and nature of his business, undoubtedly, did not require elaborate efficiency methods. The Greek city-state was a slave-state where the problems of wages were unknown, and Aristotle did not have to consider the financial aspect of social security dispensing, nor did he have to include a stock of 11,000 different specialities into his economic reasoning. True to the tradition of the Greek philosophers of his time, Aristotle collected his facts for their own sake and then reviewed them in the light of his wide experience and deep knowledge. Exchange and trade were discussed by him, as were value in use and value in exchange, money and wealth and the nature and problems of private property. The need for a detailed study of pharmaceutical economics did not arise until the increasing trend towards capitalisation, specialisation and combination in industry was followed by a parallel development in retail distribution.

No training in Business Methods is given to pharmacists in Great Britain, because it is felt "that attention to business methods would stamp him (the pharmacist) too strongly as a trader and detract from his status as a pharmacist!" This does not mean that pharmacists in Britain are not fully aware of the great need for more efficient management and close study of pharmacy operating costs. Far from it. With 27 per

cent. of all pharmacies owned by multiple concerns controlling five or more outlets, one-man pharmacies are left with less than 45 per cent. of the available trade. This figure is most revealing to those who believe in pharmacy as an independent profession; it constitutes a clear challenge to pharmaceutical leaders in all countries where the individual pharmacist still forms the basis of the pharmaceutical economic system. Business Administration is a recognised subject in the American course of pharmaceutical studies, for official opinion there is convinced that "good business training will not harm, but rather will benefit the professional aspect of pharmacy." The fact that only 10 per cent. of all U.S. chemists' shops are chain-stores seems to confirm the advantages of teaching business methods in the interest of a balanced professional pharmaceutical economy.

The village in the Middle Ages was the prominent communal centre and had to aim at complete self-sufficiency. Peasants had to produce their own food and clothing, had to build their own homes and had to provide their own services. We can assume that some of the villagers acquired special knowledge of the curative effect of certain drugs, but the community was much too small to allow for specialisation. "The history of industry," writes Professor Henry Clay, "can be viewed as simply the ever-widening application of the principle of the division of labour." The economic history of pharmacy can be traced similarly from its early beginnings in the Middle Ages to our present day economic position. Increased trade to satisfy the growing needs of the feudal aristocracy stimulated the progress of corporate towns where traders began to specialise in a particular aspect of commerce and industry. Town guilds were formed to protect and regulate their interests, safeguarding goodwill and protecting their members from unfair external competition. At first, some merchants, specialising in the import of drugs and spices, joined to become grocers. Later on, further division of labour took place, resulting in the formation of craft guilds. But trade was still relatively simple. Apothecaries sold their potions on the same premises where medicines were compounded, and their specialised knowledge of the effectiveness of drugs formed the sole basis for the apothecary's reputation. The problem of distribution did not arise. In most towns, however, the number of pharmacists was too small to be controlled by their own local guild. Realising the social need for an organised pharmaceutical service and for its assured economic stability, Frederick II issued an edict which gave pharmacy a monopoly position, but controlled its activities in the interest of the community. This "Charter of Pharmacy" is an interesting and early example of the introduction of benevolent state control in Europe as an important factor in economic and social planning. The Emperor's Edict of 1224 still forms the basis of the pharmaceutical economic system on the continent of Europe, although in Scandinavian countries paternalism is gradually giving way to state interference and nationalisation. Pharmacy in the Russian dominated areas and in Yugoslavia

has been completely socialised, and American economic thought has been introduced into part of German pharmaceutical life.

The progress of pharmacy in Britain was not influenced by the edict of the Emperor Frederick. When guilds began to decay under the impact of further specialisation (the middleman appeared as a factor of distribution) and dissension amongst their members, the London apothecaries obtained their own Charter and gradually acquired the right to practise medicine in competition with physicians. This development opened the way for the further step along the line of specialisation: the recognition of the chemist and druggist. Attempts to restrict their trade to wholesale transactions failed, and the formation of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 1841 was the outward sign of the emancipation of the profession. Pharmacy has become a specialised calling, distinct from the practice of medicine, but the whole impact of the industrial and commercial revolutions was yet to come. With the invention of the tablet machine in 1843 and of the separate needle and syringe ten years afterwards, a great impetus was given to the establishment of a pharmaceutical industry. In the past, some retail pharmacists had undertaken the manufacture of galenicals, pills, etc., for some of their colleagues in the same town. Now they began to specialise entirely in the production of drugs and pharmaceuticals which they were distributing through retail pharmacies in various parts of the country. The establishment of trade names and the introduction of specialities was the inevitable outcome of a policy in pursuit of a national economy designed to raise the standard of living by progressive application of the division of labour principle. Continental pharmacy, bound by tradition to the monopolistic aspect, opposed the intrusion of manufacturing pharmacy, fighting a losing battle against the increasing complexities of pharmaceutical production methods. In Britain and in the United States pharmacists were able to keep in step with modern trends and fitted themselves to become experienced and trusted distributors of modern therapeutics. Within a period of 50 years the pharmacist had again become a specialist. His entry into the field of distribution, however, brought him in close contact with many of the problems of merchandising, and soon a decision by the House of Lords in 1880 was to establish "company pharmacy" as an integral part of retail pharmacy in Britain. Suddenly, individual chemists found themselves confronted by a competitor with superior business knowledge and financial resources. At a time when specialisation in the field of manufacturing pharmacy was still progressing rapidly, the distributing side of the profession showed signs of undeniable tendencies towards consolidation. The period of specialisation was completed and one of horizontal and vertical combination had started. Retail pharmacies became distributing points for a wide variety of products. An increasing number of them operated as branches of multiple organisations, some of them maintaining their own production units.

The trend of pharmaceutical economic history indicates the existence of two well-defined systems: Purely professional pharmacy with its inevitable and final phase of nationalisation; commercial pharmacy with all its commercial hazards and tribulations. Individual pharmacists have nothing to fear from a competitive system of private enterprise, provided they are trained in all its aspects. The public has much to gain.

Aristotle was right when he said that "the only way to play a harp was to play a harp." These articles, especially written for Australian pharmaceutical readers, are to familiarise pharmacists with some of the fundamental economic laws and their application to modern pharmacy. Let it be understood that efficiency methods can never replace human judgment, but that they can make the choice more rational. The only way to play a harp is to play a harp, but it is just as well to have a sense of music.

## WHAT ABOUT COMPETITION?

By Phil Glanzer.

How pharmacy and the drug business will meet the challenge of competitive markets in the years that lie ahead is a matter for serious consideration today.

The supermarkets will handle and sell any fast-moving item the buying public will purchase. They take only the cream—the best-selling items—and use less than one-half the space the average drug stores use. They won't handle slow-selling items which turn over two or three times a year; they leave that to you. The profit structure on the fast-moving items is extraordinary by supermarket standards. They are not concerned about handling supposedly exclusive drug store products.

A few years ago the cosmetic and toiletry departments of variety stores carried only ten-cent sizes. Today these same stores have all the large sizes in massive displays, because it means large volume for them. They, too, along with the supermarkets, are not concerned about handling supposedly exclusive drug store products.

Door-to-door selling is severe drug store competition, and it is growing by leaps and bounds every year. Everybody is fighting for additional business, and is not concerned as to where to get it or whose toes are stepped on.

The difference between a profitable store and one that shows only a meagre or mediocre profit can be attributed to the merchandising characteristics or capabilities exhibited by the individual.

When you detail physicians, call for and deliver prescriptions, follow through on a physicians' mailing list, keep an exceptionally clean and well-stocked prescription department—you are merchandising.

In your front shop the word merchandising has a different interpretation. It means putting the right items in the right place at the right time—and that is not as difficult as it sounds. Determine your best store traffic locations, and use them to display your seasonal merchandise—whether it be toiletries, merchandise or sundries. Then watch the sale of this merchandise. If some items don't respond, change the item or relocate the display. In this way you will create more sales and more volume. But there must be daily application of effort—not weekly or monthly.

Merchandise nationally advertised products rather than off-brands. The buying habits of the public have undergone radical changes in the past 15 years. National advertising, which is heavier each succeeding year in newspapers, magazines, on the radio, etc., has made the general public know what it wants.

Consider a remodelling programme for your store—not necessarily elaborate in scope, but gradual. Emphasise better lighting, a more attractive store front, perhaps an additional fixture here or there, and fresh-looking exterior and interior signs. Every drug store should improve and continue to improve its physical features.

Proper displays and merchandising should retrieve some of the business the drug stores may have lost. Self service, as provided by showing impulse merchandise on case tops or on counters, plus centre floor displays that enable the customer to pick up merchandise and bring it to an employee, appears to be most practical.

# Weights and Measures Through the Ages

By F.H.B.

These reflections on the history of the development of weights and measures are prompted by the recent adoption of the metric system by wholesale chemists in England. It is not proposed here to discuss the pros and cons of this move, but to present in a very general way a little of the history which lies behind the grain and the pound, the ounce and the gallon. The limitations imposed by space alone prohibit even a moderately detailed account; for this one must refer to the various books on the subject.

## Early Records.

Weighing and measuring have always been important daily undertakings in commerce and industry, and the need for just scales and weights was established early in man's civilisation. Crude forms of scales and weights are said by some authorities to have existed as early as 5000 B.C. It is, however, to Babylonia that we are indebted for the earliest recognisable system of weights and measures. One of the oldest weights in existence is that of one Babylonian mine or mina, a weight of hard polished stone bearing upon its surface a signature attributed by archaeologists to a high priest of Lagash (C. 2300 B.C.). It is the equivalent of 1½ lb., and was used in weighing out wool or similar substances, probably as payment for work done. If this assumption is correct, it represents the transition from direct barter (goods for goods) to payment in kind for services rendered. Several other Babylonian weights have been found, and are variously inscribed as being "half-a-mine of correct weight" and "30 minas true," indicating very early attempts to enforce standards and stabilise an economic system.

Many Egyptian weights of varying sizes have been recovered during the past century, and the "deben" is probably the most familiar of the ancient Egyptian standards. Some of these (although by no means all) are engraved with their weight and the name of the ruler or the treasury from which they were issued. The "hin" (there seems to be conflicting evidence as to the capacity represented by the Egyptian hin) and the "dja" were measures of capacity. Graduated conical metal vessels, thought to be medicine measures, have been unearthed in Egypt, and these are calibrated in terms of the "hin" and the "dja." They are attributed to the period 1400 B.C.

Hebrew literature of the Old Testament refers frequently to weights and measures, and contains many exhortations to the people to use true weights and balances. The Hebrew weight of one shekel (approx. ½ oz.) is commonly mentioned, its multiples being the Hebrew mina of 60 shekels (30 oz.) and the talent of 50 minas. A measure used for weighing grain was the ephah, equivalent to about 1½ bushels. The measure of capacity (the "hin") was about 10 pints, and although the Egyptian hin appears to vary considerably, it would seem to differ greatly from the accepted 10 pints of the Hebrew hin. That standards existed, and indirectly that by their side existed also fraudulent weights and scales, is indicated in Proverbs II (1): "A false balance is abomination to the Lord; but a just weight is His delight."

## Greek and Roman Influences.

Consideration of the Greek and Roman systems brings one much nearer to the present. It is from these that the English Imperial system gradually evolved.

One of the largest vessels of standard capacity in both Greece and Rome was the amphora, a two-handed earthenware container used for oils, wine, honey, etc. This held six gallons. (It may be remembered that quite recently amphorae with seals intact were recovered from European waters. These were wine

amphorae, and were still full when found. The quality of the contents is unfortunately not known to the writer.)

The congius was one-eighth part of an amphora (about six pints), and the term congius and its sign (Ci) have through time and the use of approximate terminology been adapted to indicate the gallon of eight pints, an understandable development when one considers that the Latin word "galona" is not indicative of a measured quantity, but literally means a large bowl. Pint (the octarius or one-eighth part of a gallon) derives from the Latin term "pinctam," a part of a measure marked off ("painted"), and developed from the custom of "calibrating" a quart measure by painting a mark or ring around the side of the vessel at the half-way mark.

As a contraction of minimus, minim at some period has entered the apothecaries' system. It is not used in the "Pharmacopoeia Bateana" (1699)—here the word "gutta" is used. It does, however, appear in Thomson's "London Dispensatory" (1826) and also in Paris' "Pharmacologia" of 1822.

The Roman pound (pondo = by weight) was the standard Libra, and was subdivided into 12 uncia. (The Roman foot was similarly divided into uncia or twelfths.)

Both Greek and Roman records mention the drachma. Originally a Greek silver coin of over 90 grains, it was in successive stages debased to little over 60 grains. The Roman medicinal drachm was about 55 grains, and the scrupulus (originally "a small stone") weighed slightly over 18 grains. Two distinct grain weights existed at one period—the light grain and the heavy grain. The light grain was the weight of a grain of wheat, and the heavy grain was the grain of barley. The medicinal ounce of 480 grains is based on the heavy grain.

## Anglo-Saxon and Early English Developments.

With the Roman invasion of Britain came the weights and measures of the Caesars, and from the available records these appear to have been in commercial use in England at least until the end of the Roman occupation. Anglo-Saxon literature and social history refers in several places to the "pund," the "Noble" (one-third of a pound) and also to the "ore" (a weight of 320 grains). There is mention in the Laws of Ine (610 A.D.) of one "pund" and three "pund" weights which were used in "trial by ordeal." At some time during the following period, possibly before the Norman Conquest and not later than the reign of Henry III, the Roman pound of 12 oz. was raised to 15 oz. and then to 16 oz., and became the commercial (avoirdupois) pound, forming the basis for the present Imperial pound.

In 1328 the Pepperers' Guild, with which the apothecaries were associated, became the "grossarii," and received official recognition as the body regulating weighing in the City of London. Their control was manifestly inadequate, since numerous instances of fraudulent weights and dishonest trading mark the 14th century. John Seldon in his "Fleta" reports that in 1387 one Robert Porter did "fraudulently insert a piece of iron weighing 6s/8d in a loave with intent to make it weigh more, in deceit of the people." It is of interest to note the phrase "weighing 6s/8d." The pound sterling was not a coin in medieval England, but a particular weight of metal, whether coined or not. Thus parts of a pound-weight were expressed as shillings and pence. (To some degree this parallels the use of the Greek coin, the drachma, as a weight.) The custom persists today in the jeweller's use of the term "penny-weight."

### Standards of the 15th and 16th Centuries.

Corrupt weights were so much in evidence in the early 15th century that Parliament was compelled to petition Henry VII to make "weights and measures of a true standard." These were made and issued from Winchester, and when distributed became the legal standard for almost the next 100 years, when discontent again became evident among the merchant guilds.

It is to the reign of Elizabeth I that we must look for some semblance of order and clarity to appear in English weights and measures. Consequent upon the Queen's dissatisfaction with a report made in 1574, a second investigation was instituted under a jury of goldsmiths and merchants. From this inquiry came new sets of both troy and avoirdupois weights for distribution throughout the Kingdom. Some of these avoirdupois weights are still in existence, and do not even now differ by more than one or two grains in each pound from Imperial standard. At the same time it was proclaimed that "No person shall use any Troy weight but only for weighing bread, gold, silver, electuaries (drugs) and for no other thing." Later, in 1618, the Society of Apothecaries made the use of "Dispensatoire Troy weights" obligatory to all its members, and the Troy ounce of 480 grains was thus officially established.

The position remained virtually unchanged until 1824, when new laws were proclaimed making the Troy system the legal standard for all weighing and measuring. This proved to be a most unpopular move, and 1834 saw the decision of 1824 reversed, re-establishing the Imperial system for general use, and limiting the use of the Troy system to chemists and goldsmiths. The Weights and Measures Acts of 1855 and 1878 legalised the new standards and prohibited the use of Troy weights except for selling precious metals and retailing drugs.

Since 1878 there have been minor alterations and revisions but no vital changes in Imperial standards. The apothecaries ounce of 480 grains still remains in Board of Trade standards, although for many years the British Pharmacopoeia has only recognised Imperial and metric standards.

And now? Will the metric system eventually completely replace this present pharmaceutical system of weighing and measuring? The signs point that way, but tradition dies hard, and while it is wrong to say "This is old, therefore it is good," might it not be equally erroneous to say "This is new, therefore it is better"?

### BENZENE HEXACHLORIDE POISONING OF EMACIATED SHEEP\*

[Abstract]

Mortalities occurred among emaciated ewes and lambs dipped in a benzene hexachloride for control of sheep scab at concentrations of 0.03 to 0.06 per cent. gamma isomer. A number of experiments were carried out in Texas in order to examine the toxicity of what was previously accepted as a non-toxic insecticide treatment. Losses had occurred in several districts.

It was found that lactating emaciated ewes were approximately eight times as susceptible to BHC poisoning as lactating ewes in good condition. The lambs of emaciated ewes were more resistant than their dams. Suspensions of 0.03 to 0.06 per cent. gamma isomer were toxic whether prepared from lindane or technical benzene hexachloride. Emaciated, lactating ewes were more susceptible than well-fed sheep to toxaphene and chlordane poisoning. Concentrations of 1 per cent. of toxaphene or chlordane were less injurious than dips containing 0.06 per cent. gamma BHC.

—H. McL. G.

\*Radcliff, R. D. and Bushland, R. C. (1953). Vet. Med. 48 (2): 53.

From "The Australian Veterinary Journal," January, 1954.

### EXTRACTS FROM HUGH LINSTEAD'S PLAY

"Jacob Bell and Some Others."

Dangerfield: Well, Mr. Bell, I have discussed with my friends—you know who they are—the per pros and the per contras, as you might say, of your proposition. We have had two meetings—two long meetings. And I am authorised by them to say that they must maintain their attitude. What they feel is just this: the drug trade of this country today, Mr. Bell, is very different from the drug trade of fifty years ago. Then the apothecary was the apothecary; then there was skill and art in the business. But today the apothecary won't acknowledge that he is part of the drug trade. He's become the family physician. He sees his patients and he supplies their medicines. How many of the physicians of today write their prescriptions? Take a business like mine, Mr. Bell. How many physician's prescriptions do we have presented in a day? One—perhaps two. Three? Why, three's the Flood! No, Mr. Bell, we must face facts. Your business here, and Mr. Dinneford's, and Godfrey and Cooke, they're not the typical drug business of today. Outside those businesses and Allen's in Plough Court—you can count 'em on your ten fingers—there are no drug businesses in London today that can live on drugs. We have to butter our bread, and to do that we have to sell what we can how we can. We buy and we sell as the grocer or the baker buys and sells.

Jacob Bell: I fear I interrupted you, Mr. Dangerfield.

Dangerfield: I think I have only this to add, Mr. Bell. You talk about your new Society advocating legal standards for drugs. What does that mean in practice, Mr. Bell? I'll tell you. You want to catch the man who sells rubbish. Right. You set the trap and you catch your man. And when you take him out and look at him, who have you caught? You! Or me, if you like. At any rate, one of the honest men of the trade who's been unlucky. Who wants legal standards for drugs? The public don't. They're content. The doctors haven't asked for it. The Government aren't moving. Why stir up sleeping dogs, Mr. Bell, when they're only going to put a rope round your neck and mine?

So, my friends, with regret, Mr. Bell, with sincere respect for your own convictions, must oppose the formation of this Society. We say in short this: We can educate our own apprentices in our own pharmacies to learn their craft; we must be as free as can be from legal restrictions in our fight for a living; we see in drug standards and in codes of conduct something that will as likely catch the saint as the sinner.

Jacob Bell: All I have to say is this: Slowly but surely the system of caring for the sick is undergoing a change in this country. The care of the sick poor is a charge on the rates already as is the care of those mentally afflicted. Education is becoming the concern of the State rather than the Church. Sanitation is actively engaging the activities of State commissioners and local vestries. Charity still occupies a proud position in education and in the care of the sick, and for many years yet she will continue to reign. But, Mr. Dangerfield, slowly but surely the State will take over the cultivation of those fields, so that education and care in sickness go to all as a right and not to some as a favour. Compromise there must be, probably a marriage between charity and public control, but I can see clearly before me today the steady growth and expansion of what I call the social services. What part in that expansion is the druggist to take? Is he to be merely the supplier of crude material to the physician for him to provide to the patient, or is he to take a vital part in devising medicaments, compounding them and supplying them? The answer, I am convinced, depends upon whether we can produce a body of trained, examined, disciplined men duly enrolled on the register of some accepted Society. I would urge you, Mr. Dangerfield, to put that consideration to your friends.

# When the Elizabethan Herbalist of London Gathered His Supplies

## The Wild Plants and Flowers of Elizabethan London

By Frank A. King.

Whenever the Elizabethan herbalist of London wished to replenish his stocks or to obtain plants to prepare new infusions, he did not have far to walk to collect the necessary plants, roots or flowers in his sack or basket. Whole rows of houses in the principal streets had gardens before the premises or in the open country behind, but the housewife who wished to gather wild berries or flowers for her simples merely had to go to the nearby common or marshes.

St. Giles was then still literally in the fields; Soho, Bloomsbury, Clerkenwell, Finsbury, Shoreditch and Whitechapel were merely detached villages linked together by roadways beside which grew all types of plants and bushes. The favourite haunts of the simpliciers and herbalists of Tudor London were from Spittal Fields, Goodman's Fields to Ratcliff, which were all pasture and meadow grounds.

Islington, Kentish Town and Knightsbridge would be visited for cakes and ale or strawberries and cream when the plants had been gathered, whilst there was always the chance of another form of entertainment elsewhere—an execution might be seen when collecting herbs in the neighbourhood of the Tyburn Tree.

Across the Bridge, on the Borough side of the river, St. George's Fields was a vast waste interspersed with willow trees and ditches. The space between Southwark and Ratcliff was then quite a rural neighbourhood, with farm houses and grazing cattle, and Lord Sussex's house in Bermondsey, or, as it is shown on one of the older maps, in Barnaby street.

The red dead nettle, seeking waste places, grew plentifully on the right bank of the way between Pimlico and Chelsea, not only when Elizabeth Tudor reigned, but two hundred years later, in the time of Curtis the botanist. Cat's-tail-grass, sacred to St. Timothy in bygone days, waved its clustered spikes upon the present site of Belgravia, and flourished plentifully by the bridge to enter Chelsea fields, as the herbalist went from St. James's to Little Chelsea, where also grew, at the "end neare London," the wild red clary, known for its miraculous efficacy in all diseases of the eyes, and which was also to be found in Holborn fields, near Gray's Inn.

The greater burnet lifted its deep red ovate spikes and soft green pinnate leaves in the meadows by St. Pancras' Church, then only "near London," and it also grew on a path which John Gerard, the famous herbalist, said "crosseth one half of a field whereof the one part is arable ground, and the other meadow, lying between Paddington and Lisson Green, near unto London, upon the highway."

Simplers in search of herbs for cardiac stimulation found the little wild blue bugloss growing on the dry ditch-banks about Piccadilly, and borage favoured the same locality. Pliny calls this plant Euphrasinum, because the herb eyebright makes a man merry and joyful; and it was used in Turner's time and long afterwards, in many ways, for the comfort of the heart and for the driving away of sorrows. Milton in "Paradise Lost," printed in 1665, portrays St. Michael purging the eve of Adam with euphasy to enable him to see the distant future.

Wild roses blossomed on the borders of a pasture leading from the village of Knightsbridge to that of Fulham. "Ladies' traces" raised taperlike stalks and twisted spikes of small white flowers amongst stalked

ovate leaves upon a common heath outside Stepney village, and also near the bowling place under a few scrubby old oaks at Islington.

The deeply-cut leaves and bright pink flowers of the Vervain Mallow, as Gerard calls it, grew on the way-side on the left-hand side of the Tyburn Tree, and also in the happier vicinity of the hedges and bushes on the way to Hackney, where, nearby, states the same writer, the small turnip grew in sandy ground, and was taken by the local women to sell at Cheapside Cross. Vervain, or verbena, *quasi herba*, originally denoted all those herbs that were held sacred on account of their being employed in the rites of sacrifice, says Mills in his "Logic." It was used by the Greeks and Romans in their sacrifices and sacred rites.

This "divine weed" or "herba sacra" was so highly esteemed by them that annual feasts called "Verbena-lia" were held in its honour. It was supposed to avert sorcery and witchcraft, and was used by the Druids in their incantations. Mason, in "Caractacus," printed in 1759, refers to this custom:

"Lift up your boughs of vervain blue,  
Dipt in cold September dew;  
And dash the moisture, chaste and clear,  
O'er the ground, and through the air.  
Now the place is purged and pure."

For ages vervain was a reputed deobstruent, especially efficacious in scrofulous complaints, the bites of rabid animals, antipathies and megrims. Michael Drayton, the poet laureate, said in his "Polyolbion," printed in 1613, that "a wreath of vervain heralds wear" as a badge of truce. Ambassadors also wore a chaplet of vervain on denouncing war. The "holy herb" was also called "pigeons' grass," "Juno's tears," and "simpler's Joy," and was considered to arrest the diffusion of poison, and to conciliate friendships, and to be a pledge of mutual good faith, hence the custom of heralds and others to wear this herb. Drayton also commented:

"The hermit . . . the holy vervain finds,  
Which he about the head that hath the megrim binds."

Couchgrass, better known than desired, overspread the fields between Tower Hill and Ratcliff. The Tower of London ditch was rich in aquatic plants, which included the great burweed, with its sword-shaped leaves, the arrow-headed leaves of water-archers, and the rudely-named but elegant frog-bit, which floated its leafy rafts spreading out its pellucid blossoms underlined with gold. This beautiful and curious little flower also scattered its flower-snow and moth-luring perfume upon the still waters in the ditches about St. George's Fields, and upon the Thames side, near Lambeth Marsh.

Here, under the shadow of the stately loose-strife with its many long stems of spiked flowers, half-a-foot high, growing in bundles one above another, of a purple violet colour, also grew in the Lambeth ditches the featherfoil or water violet, lifting its solitary stalks and flowers "all silver white." The violet, now considered to be the flower of modesty, is said originally to have sprung from the blood of the boasting Ajax. As Young says in his poem, "The Instalment"—

"As when stern Ajax poured a purple flood,

The violet rose, fair daughter of his blood."

In floral language the violet is emblematical of innocence, and Ophelia comments, in Shakespeare's "Hamlet," that the King, the Queen, and even Hamlet himself, now that he has slain Polonius, are unworthy of this symbol. It is said that some person went by night and strewed violets over the grave of Nero, showing that even he had someone who loved him, and this gave rise to the phrase, "the violet on the tyrant's grave."

What a setting of fenny rankness, of dark undergrowth and stagnant water is produced when St. George's Fields disclosed—

"Thistles, and nettles, and darnels, rank,  
And the docks, and henbane, and hemlock dank,  
Stretched out its long and hollow shank."

Thistles, especially "Our Lady's Thistle," were said to be a cure for stitch in the side. According to the doctrine of signatures, Nature has labelled every plant, and the prickles of the thistle were to show that this plant was efficacious for "prickles" or the stitch. The white markings on the leaves of the species called *Silybum Marianum*, according to a legend, are due to the milk of the Virgin Mary falling on this plant and leaving a white mark.

According to tradition, henbane makes those who chance to eat of it "bray like asses or neigh like horses," but now the herbalist uses it as a sedative and as a substitute for opium, where this is inadmissible, as in children's complaints.

Hemlock is also used as a sedative. Socrates the Wise, when seventy years of age, in B.C. 399, and Phocion the Good, at eighty-five, in B.C. 317, were both, by the Athenians, condemned to death by hemlock juice. It was known as the "insane root." It is said that those who eat hemlock can see objects otherwise invisible. Thus, when Banquo had encountered the Witches, who vanished as mysteriously as they had appeared, he says to Macbeth: "Were such things (really) here . . . or have we eaten the insane root (hemlock) that takes the reason prisoner," so that our eyes see things that are not?

The great burreed sent up its bayonet-shaped leaves in St. George's Fields as well as at the place of execution at the end of Southwark called St. Thomas's Waterings. The horse-tail waved on the surface of the ditches there, and the oyster-mushrooms brooded on the bodies of old willows in this neighbourhood where water-flags hung rotting on the surface.

In summer, when the frog-bite floated on the marshes, and the flowering rush set up its stately stalks, and umbels of pink waxen flowers in the midst, and skull-cap shone blue upon the banks, the scene might have been very captivating; but in winter, the Bankside and the Southwark marshes displayed only rankness and decay. The rushes would be gathered and dried to provide not only floor-coverings in humble homes, but also for the halls of the livery guilds of London. Distinguished guests had clean fresh rushes obtained for their visits, but Lylly, in his "Sappho and Phaoan," printed in 1584, says: "Strangers have green rushes when daily guests are not worth a rush."

Gerard found the common nightshade "in a ditch side against the Hon. Earl of Sussex, his garden wall, at his house in Bermondsey street, by London, as you go from the court, which is full of trees, into a farm house near unto." We are told that the berries of the deadly nightshade, or Belladonna, so intoxicated the soldiers of Sweno, King of the Danes, that they became easy prey to the Scots, who cut them to pieces. The term "deadly" is not due to its poisonous qualities, but because it was used at one time for blackening the eyes in times of mourning. It is not known why the Italians gave the term *Belladonna* to the deadly nightshade. One version is that it is from the practice of women touching their eyes with it to make the pupils large and lustrous, but another tradition is that it is from this berry having been used by the Italian poisoner, Leucota, to poison beautiful women.

In the spring, white saxifrage lifted its fair flowers in a field on the left-hand side of the way leading from St. Thomas's Waterings to Deptford "by London," and also very profusely in the great field called "The Mantles" at Islington. Saxifrage was so called from its virtues as a lithontriptic. Pliny, and later writers refer to the supposed medicinal value of the plant in breaking up and dispersing stone in the bladder, and Drayton mentions this property in his lines—

"So saxifrage is good, and hart's tongue for the stone,  
With agrimony, and that herb we call St. John."

Nettle-leaved goosefoot, or stinking arrach, grew in great abundance in the Edgware Road district, even when Curtis was compiling his manuals on floral lore. Spotted persicaria, or smartweed, grew between Kentish Street and St. Thomas's Waterings, and also in a large ditch on the right-hand side of the road between Blackman Street and Newington. The flowering rush, crowned with umbels of thirty pink flowers, rose from one to six feet high in Blackwall marshes, where, and at the Isle of Dogs, flourished the snow-flake.

Wild rue grew on the ditch-sides leading from Kentish Street to St. Thomas's Waterings. Rue is called the herb of grace because, owing to its extreme bitterness, it is the symbol of repentance. Shakespeare, in his "Richard the Second," says—

"Here did she fall a tear; here in this place,  
I'll set a bank of rue, sour herb of grace,  
Rue, even for ruth, here shortly shall be seen,  
In the remembrance of a weeping queen."

Jeremy Taylor, in "A Disuasive from Popery," printed in 1664, quoting from the "Flagellum Daemonum," a form of exorcism used by Father Jerome Mengus when exorcising Martha Brosser in 1599, says:

"First, they are to try the devil by holy water, incense, sulphur, rue, which from thence, as we suppose, came to be called 'herb of grace'—and especially St. John's Wort, which therefore they call 'devil's flight,' with which if they cannot cast the devil out, yet they may do good to the patient."

For centuries rue was supposed to prevent contagion, and Roman Catholics still sprinkle holy water with a bunch of rue. Ophelia, in Shakespeare's "Hamlet," says: "There's rue for you, and here's some for me! We may call it 'herb of grace' o' Sundays." When she is distributing flowers she observes: "You must wear your rue with a difference," using the word in heraldic sense, and meaning, "You must wear it as though it were marked in such a way as will slightly change the usual meaning of the plant," which, as herb of grace was a symbol of repentance, or else, on the assumption that she was offering the flower to the Queen, may have implied that they were both to wear rue—the one as the affianced of Hamlet, the eldest son of the late king, and the other as the wife of Claudius, his brother, and the cadet branch.

By Westminster, in Tothill Fields, originally a sandy heath, grew spurrey, buckstone plantine and parsley pier, which was also to be found in Hyde Park. The Greeks decked tombs with parsley, because it keeps green a long time, and the phrase, "He has need now of nothing but a little parsley," means "he is dead." Culpepper mentions that mithridate mustard grew on the Surrey side of the main street of Peckham. Near the Archbishop's house-wall at Lambeth and all along the side of the Thames in gardens and fields grew tall loose-strife or yellow lysimachia.

Parkinson found the autumnal squill growing on a bank on its margin at the "hither end of Chelsey." Willow herb flourished at St. Thomas's Waterings "among the planks that do hold up the banks of the Thames. Star-thistle spread its straggling branches and disclosed its pretty pink blossoms, beset with yellow spikes, in many of the London suburbs and at Mile End Common, and at Finsbury Fields "beyond the windmills."

Pennyroyal also grew wild on Mile End Common, and poor women collected it to sell in London. This herb, a species of mint, is not connected with the coin,

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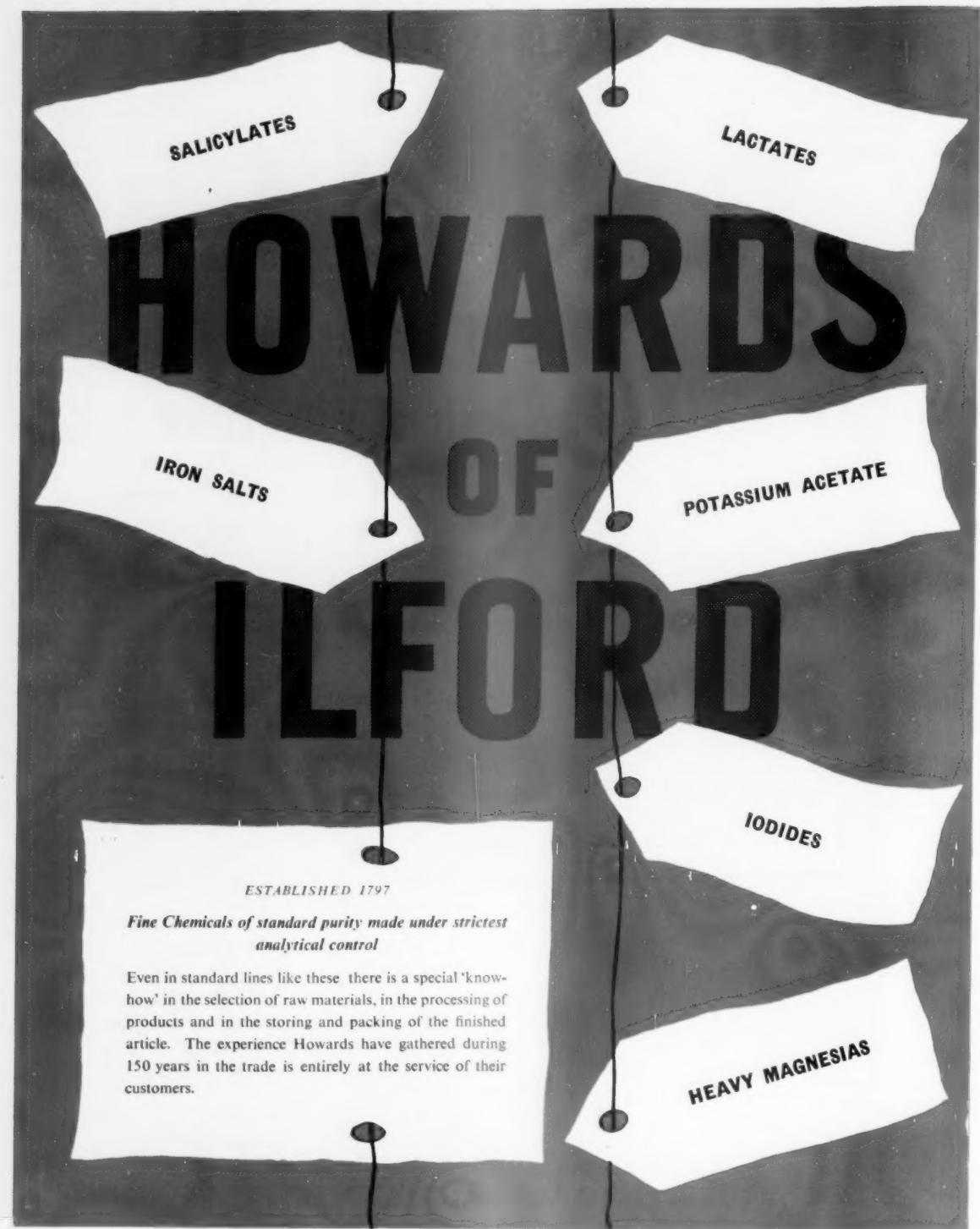
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but is a corruption of *pulegium royale*, from the Latin *pulegium*, thyme, so called from *pulex*, a flea, because it was supposed to be harmful to fleas, and Anglo-French *réal*, royal. The French called the herb *pouloit*, from *pou*, a louse. Liquorice, another money-making herb, was cultivated in the fields near Whitechapel and Wellclose Square, and sold by the street-women.

Scabious bloomed in the meadows of St. Giles, and the young men, when shooting at the mark in Spittal Fields, trampled under their feet the self-heal, or *prunella vulgaris*. The golden-rod brightened up Hampstead Wood, and also grew in profusion near the gate leading out of it into Kentish Town—then a village not a very great distance from the capital of England.

Throughout London, in fields and gardens, grew the pansy, known by a host of picturesque names such as "butterfly flower," "kiss-me-quick," "a-kiss-behind-the-garden-gate," "Heartsease," "love-in-idleness," "the variegated violet," "three-faces-under-one-hood," and the "herba trinitatis." Heartsease, or the wild pansy, was used in blood disorders and catarrhal affections. Tradition says it was originally white, but Cupid changed its colour to purple, and Shakespeare, in "A Midsummer-Night's Dream," refers to this fable in the lines—

Yet marked I where the bolt of Cupid fell,  
It fell upon a little Western flower,  
Before, milk-white, now purple with love's wound;  
The maidens call it "Love-in-idleness."

The study of medicine developed during the reign of Elizabeth Tudor, and gradually the reputations of the herbalists and simplicies fell into disrepute, often through the ridiculous charges brought against witches that they had used certain herbs and plants in their concoctions, but many of the properties ascribed to certain plants by the Elizabethan collectors were found to be efficacious for certain ailments, and are still used for such treatments.

### NEW PHENOTHIAZINE DRENCH FOR WORMS IN SHEEP

Recent statements in the press about "a new phenothiazine drench" for worms in sheep have given graziers the impression that the efficiency of phenothiazine has been so greatly increased that the dose rate can be reduced. Mr. D. A. Gill, Officer-in-Charge of the C.S.I.R.O. McMaster Animal Health Laboratory, Sydney, said (May 11, 1954) that this is not so, and that no reduction in dose rate can be recommended at present.

The facts are as follows: Phenothiazine is sold as a powder or as a liquid suspension of the powder, because it is insoluble in water. The particles of powder vary considerably in size. It was found by C.S.I.R.O. that phenothiazine which contained a large proportion of coarse particles was less efficient than samples in which all the particles were small ones.

When worms were specially troublesome among sheep during the wet seasons of 1951 and 1952, many complaints were received that phenothiazine was becoming less effective. But examination of some phenothiazine about which complaints had been made showed that it contained a high proportion of coarse particles, which could well have been responsible for the poor results. It was therefore decided to examine more closely the effect of particle size on the efficiency of phenothiazine against worms in sheep. Messrs. I.C.I.A.N.Z. and Elliotts & Australian Drug Pty. Ltd. kindly supplied C.S.I.R.O.'s McMaster Laboratory with several samples of phenothiazine which contained particles of different sizes. These are very difficult to prepare exactly, and the quantities available were too small for extensive

tests. The work is still in progress, and it will be some time before it can be completed.

However, it has been concluded in the meantime that the efficiency of phenothiazine will fall off if the particles of the powder are more than about one-thousandth of an inch in diameter. Messrs. I.C.I.A.N.Z. therefore has modified its method of processing phenothiazine to ensure that none of the particles is larger than this. Other firms also are taking similar precautions.

The degree to which exclusion of coarser particles will increase efficiency is not known.

Moreover, whereas coarse particles may have little or no effect on the worms because they pass through the animal more or less unchanged, excessively fine particles may also be less effective because a larger proportion of the dose may be absorbed from the intestines and passed through the kidneys, so that less remains to reach worms lower down in the bowel. Much additional research must be done before such questions can be answered.

No reduction in the dose rate of phenothiazine can be recommended in the meantime. All that can safely be said of the phenothiazine from which coarse particles have been removed is that one cause of reduced efficiency as a worm drench has been eliminated.

### EFFICIENCY AT THE COUNTER

Attending to the needs of customers at the front counter is the most important job in retail pharmacy. A courteous service, added to the specialised knowledge which the pharmacist alone can give to the public, will do much to encourage the return of satisfied customers. But these essentials cannot be made available without the co-operation of each member of the staff. Time and motion studies or such methods of modern efficiency which are considered necessary in the factory are not the essential ingredients here, as each member of the retail staff cannot remain in a watertight compartment with fixed duties.

All retail pharmacies have their rush periods, but to keep their services running smoothly the staff must be available to cope with the customers who appear at unexpected times. During such emergencies all hands must attend to those waiting at the counter, regardless of special training or special duties.

The old family businesses and the successes they achieved were built up on such a type of service and one could not do better than follow such examples.

—Extract from "The Retail Chemist," April, 1954.

### PRICES OF "MIRACLE" DRUGS REDUCED

Increased production of new "miracle" drugs has cut their price to a fraction of their original cost, according to the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association. Cortisone, for example, was introduced in 1949 after huge sums of money had been invested in its development. There have been five substantial price reductions in one of its forms in the past four years, so that the same quality that sold for 200 dollars originally now sells for 7.60 dollars. Substantial price reductions have likewise been made in other wonder drugs.

Countless millions of dollars are invested or gambled in medical research. As use of the drugs becomes more widespread the expense decreases drastically. Savings are passed on to the public.—"Pharmacy International."

# Federal Guild Executive Meets in Perth

Brief, Crowded Programme of W.A. Visit

## Mr. Scott on Threat to Free Enterprise

For the first time the Federal Executive of the Guild met on May 11 and 12 in Perth. The meeting was held during a crowded five-day visit to Western Australia by the Federal President (Mr. Eric Scott), the Federal Treasurer (Mr. Walter C. Cotterell) and the Federal Director of Public Relations (Mr. K. G. Attiwill).

Messrs. Scott and Attiwill travelled by train to Kalgoorlie, where they were met on Saturday, May 8, by the President of the West Australian Branch of the Guild (Mr. G. D. Allan), the newly-elected President of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia (Mr. R. I. Cohen), who is also a member of the Guild Committee, Messrs. R. J. Healy and J. G. Skeahan (S.B.C. members) and the Guild Secretary and Organiser (Mr. Robert T. Hallo).

Mr. Allan conveyed greetings from the Deputy Federal President (Mr. G. H. Dallimore, of Perth), who, he said, would meet the party next day at Merredin, accompanied by Mr. Cotterell, who had flown to Perth from Adelaide for the Guild Federal Executive meeting.

### Kalgoorlie Meeting.

Kalgoorlie and Boulder chemists praised the work of the Federal leaders when returning thanks after addresses by Messrs. Scott, Attiwill and Cotterell at a meeting at the Palace Hotel. Local chemists present were Messrs. E. Elliott, N. Lee (Boulder), R. Gaugh, R. Baugh, Rodgers (Kellys Ltd., Kalgoorlie), J. Stacey and J. Allen. The local chemists elected Mr. Allan as Chairman of the meeting, and he cordially welcomed the Federal leaders. Mr. Allan also referred appre-

ciatively to the election of Mr. Cohen as President of the Pharmaceutical Council.

Mr. Scott gave a vigorous address about the development of the Commonwealth "free" medicine scheme, emphasising the increasing complexity of the problem for the chemists, as well as the Commonwealth's determination to police the scheme rigorously to justify the mounting expenditure upon it. Attempts had been made to split the Guild for political motives. If only partial success was achieved by these destroyers, it made increasingly difficult the task of the Guild negotiators when they faced the Government. Already, because of the growth of the health service and the rapid expansion of the pharmaceutical section of it, it was hard to keep pace with the problems confronting the Guild. The consolidated National Health Act 1953 was now in full operation, and there was a new set of regulations. Where it was thought that injustices or anomalies were presented by the regulations, the Guild would press for amendment. Especially would it press for closer consultation before regulations were gazetted.

### Preview of New Guild Building.

Mr. Scott described progress on the seven-storey steel and concrete building—provisionally known as "Guild House"—now approaching completion in St. Francis street, in the heart of Melbourne. The Guild proposed to occupy six of the seven floors. It was a handsome and dignified building that would reflect the strength and importance of the Federal Guild. Incidentally, it

would be the first time that a pharmaceutical body owned and occupied a building in Australia. Mr. Attiwill would describe another milestone in Guild history—a projected magazine of highest quality and wide general public appeal that would be sponsored by the Guild if members agreed to the details that were now being worked out for presentation to the State Branch Committees and later to the Federal Council at its annual meeting in October.

Surveying Guild morale in all States, Mr. Scott said that throughout the country its members were solidly behind the Federal Council.

Mr. Attiwill followed with a report on his many activities in the public relations field. Good relationship between chemists and customers was a prerequisite to establishing the family chemist firmly in the centre of the rapidly-evolving social pattern.

Publication of a first-class four-colour magazine designed to appeal to every section of the magazine-reading public was under consideration. If the project materialised Guild chemists would be provided with a unique and powerful means to develop their close relationship with the millions of customers who visited chemist shops every year. The magazine was still in the investigatory stage, and if the Federal Council approved of the final plans, Guild members would be invited to take a vital part in launching the magazine.



Basking in the sunshine of the Golden West at Merredin are (left to right) Mr. R. I. Cohen, President of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia; Mrs. R. T. Hallo, whose husband is Secretary and Organiser of the Western Australian Branch of the Guild; Mr. Eric Scott, Federal President of the Guild; Mrs. J. Skeahan, wife of a leading Western Australian State Branch Committeeman; and Mr. G. D. T. Allan, President of the Western Australian Branch of the Guild and a member of Federal Council.

#### **Freight on Bottles.**

Question time included a request by Mr. N. Lee (Boulder) for a better allowance to offset the high freight on bottles. Mr. Scott undertook to have inquiries made. Mr. Scott and Mr. Allan also promised to discuss with the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Office in Perth a complaint that the latest Pensioner Medicine Service price list did not contain alterations made in April.

Mr. Healey said that the W.A. office would probably send out another list containing amendments.

Expressing thanks to the visitors, Mr. E. Elliott said that sometimes country Guild members took as a matter of course the long and arduous trips made by Federal Guild officials to give first-hand reports of their work. The Guild's sterling work made him think of 1903 when he had begun in a profession which had had no protection. At one time they had got a flat 6d. a bottle—supplying, labelling and handing it out! It was not until the Guild was formed that retail chemists had begun to derive some benefit from the laborious work their profession demanded. Today the family chemist was "something in the community."

Mr. Lee: I support those remarks in full. We are all very pleased to have Mr. Scott and Mr. Attiwill here with our own State Guild leaders.

Mr. Allan described several forward moves by the State Branch Committee, including the expansion of the Committee from 10 to 11 members to include a direct representative of the country chemists. Mr. John Hands, of Wyalcatchem, had been elected to that position, and he was giving valuable aid with his first-hand knowledge of the problems of the country pharmacy.

Mr. J. Allen, Secretary of the Goldfields Guild district, thanked Mr. Allan for the good work being done by himself as President and by the Committee as a whole.

#### **Merredin Meeting.**

Merredin, a thriving town about midway between Kalgoorlie and Perth, was the scene of the next meeting. The official party was joined at Merredin by Messrs. Dallimore, Cotterell and Hands. (Messrs. Skehan, Hall and Hands were accompanied on the trip by their wives.)

In this State of vast distances, the following chemists went to the meeting, which was organised and attended also by Mr. Jack Miller, of Merredin, Messrs. T. McManus (Southern Cross), C. Fowler (Merredin), C. Eakers (Kellerherrine). Apologies were received from Messrs. A. Curtis (Northam) and E. Stacey (York). For three hours after listening attentively to the Federal officials the West Australian chemists discussed their problems informally with the Federal officials.

#### **Mr. Cotterell Welcomed.**

On his first visit as Federal Treasurer, Mr. Walter Cotterell was warmly welcomed to Western Australia by the President (Mr. G. D. Allan), who said that Mr. Cotterell was also President of the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and President of the South Australian branch of the Guild.

Mr. Cotterell, in thanking Mr. Allan and his colleagues for their cordial welcome, said that since he had assumed the Federal Treasurership he had become more familiar with the astonishing amount of work done by the Federal Guild for members in all States. The number of calls responded to was remarkable. Pharmacy had a good and loyal team, and they were happy in their captain and vice-captain, Messrs. Eric Scott and George Dallimore. But there were certain

#### **SOUTH MEETS WEST AT MERREDIN.**



Mr. Walter Cotterell of Adelaide (left) with three leading Western Australian Guild members who attended a special meeting of the Guild at Merredin, W.A., on Sunday, May 9. Next to Mr. Cotterell is Mr. Jack Miller of Merredin, Mr. Geoffrey Skeahan of Fremantle, and Mr. John Hands, of Wyalcatchem.

Mr. Cotterell, who is the Federal Treasurer of the Guild, attended a meeting of the Federal Executive in Perth. He also holds the offices of President of the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and President of the South Australian Branch of the Guild.

weaknesses, and they entailed much travelling round the Commonwealth. The available funds were stretched in a remarkably efficient manner to meet all the needs of the State and Federal offices and of the members throughout Australia.

#### **"Sighting" P.M.S. Entitlement Cards.**

Mr. John Hands (Wyalcatchem), who represents the country Guild members on the State Branch Committee, said that it was not always possible for a country chemist to "sight" a pensioner's entitlement card, as stipulated by the Health Department. There were country chemists who had never seen some of their customers living long distances from the town in which the pharmacy was situated.

Mr. Allan said that the State Branch Office would take up the matter through the Chief Commonwealth Pharmacist in Perth.

Mr. Cotterell said that, though the country chemist might not see all the pensioners for whom P.M.S. prescriptions were written, the doctor did. Would it not be sufficient in such cases if the doctor "sighted" the entitlement card?

Mr. Scott said that if the State Guild approach was not successful in removing the anomaly from which the country chemists were suffering in regard to sighting entitlement cards, the Federal Guild Office would press for it.

#### **MR. SCOTT ADDRESSES ROTARY.**

##### **Chemists and "Free" Medicine.**

"Pharmacy's Part in Social Service" was Mr. Scott's subject as guest speaker at the luncheon at the Civic Centre, Cottesloe, on May 11 of the Claremont-Cottesloe Rotary Club.

"What is Social Service, and where do Australia's 3000 family chemists fit into the picture?" Mr. Scott asked.

"Broadly speaking," Mr. Scott said, "Social Service is the difference between the old Poor Laws of England, with their dreadful stigma of poverty, grudging charity, and the shadow of the workhouse—and acceptance by the community of the responsibility to look after the health of its own component parts by means of taxation specially imposed for that specific purpose.

"Social Service takes care of the sick, the needy and the aged in our modern society. It has come to stay. How far does it go in Australia today?



Mr. R. I. Cohen, of Perth, W.A., who was recently elected President of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia, with Mr. Eric Scott, Federal President of the Guild and Acting President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria in the absence abroad of Mr. Ivan J. Thompson. They were photographed during a break in a meeting of Guild members at Merredin (W.A.) on May 9.

"The Liberal Party wishes a very stringent means test (but one which they are gradually easing) to govern the expenditure of money and the sapping of the independence and virility of the people.

"Labour, on the other hand, contends that Society owes a debt to itself that must be paid, whatever the age or financial situation of the individual—pensions for all, etc. This, of course, is socialisation in embryo.

"How can the Liberal Party dismount once it is astride the tiger of social service? It seems that inevitably, whatever the political party, the drift must always be toward the complete care of the individual by the State.

#### Clamour for Relief.

"We as business men," said Mr. Scott, "must use every endeavour to maintain the independence and individuality of those (such as the family doctors and the family chemists) who are the purveyors of the Government's social services in one form or another.

"All over the world people are clamouring for some easing of the high cost of sickness. Hospitalisation facilities are totally inadequate to meet this demand. So Governments are experimenting with different schemes to give some relief from this burden.

"In Australia we had first the McKenna, and then the Page, 'free' medicine scheme. The McKenna scheme had provided all medicine 'free' to all (you got it free as a patient, you paid for it as a taxpayer). The Page scheme, restricted to the life-saving drugs, requires the individual to pay some part of the cost. This rests upon the belief that nobody values 'something for nothing.'

"What part does pharmacy play in this picture?" Mr. Scott went on. "Our whole attempt throughout our negotiations with the Commonwealth Government has been to preserve the independence of the individual

playing his role of family chemist in the health team. The family chemist is a small unit of free enterprise whose independence could be crushed by the Goliath of Government interference and control.

"And so the family chemist must band himself into a stronger body to preserve the traditions and standards of his craft as handed down through the ages.

#### Not Frightened By Change.

"We family chemists are not frightened by change," said Mr. Scott, "but it is essential to us that we maintain our full service to the community which we have served for countless generations, while at the same time adapting ourselves to the evolution of our part in Australia's rapidly-expanding Social Services.

"Free' medicine is supplied by the family chemists upon a contractual basis with the Commonwealth.

"Medical benefits insurance provides, among other things, for medical attention upon a contractual basis between the doctor and the Commonwealth.

"Both professions, therefore, must face a continuing and possibly an increasing pressure against their treasured independence.

"The more a profession concerned with supplying social service is dependent upon a Government for its income, the greater the threat to its freedom. A regimented health profession is not impossible in Australia—and it is not a question of party politics. The strength of Government control must grow in proportion to the amount of public money the Government pays to the health professions.

"What is our answer to this challenge?"

To be left alone to the extent that we can continue to provide a service incomparably better than any Government clinic and regimented sick parade could ever give. Australia's family doctors and chemists give a service second to none in the whole world.

"So long as we give that better, personalised service that marks free enterprise as compared with Government clinics, we will retain the public's goodwill, and no socialised health service could ever supplant us."

After the luncheon, Mr. Scott was warmly congratulated upon his address. Among those present was a group of members of Perth Rotary Club.

#### Country Hospitals Dispensing.

To press the claims of country chemists who had been deprived of the right to dispense pharmaceutical benefits prescriptions in country hospitals under the



Mr. G. D. Allan, youngest member of the Federal Council of the Guild and President of the West Australian Branch, with Mr. Hugh Howling, who was an original member of the Federal Council, and who has been active in official pharmacy for many years. The photograph was taken by Mr. Keith Attiwill at a special meeting of the Guild in Perth on May 12.

# Relief of Pain

- The value of aspirin and other salicylates has long been recognised in the treatment of rheumatic patients and for a general analgesic effect. Salicylates unfortunately possess a number of disadvantages. Hyperacidity is frequently encountered in continued treatment. They stimulate the central nervous system, are to some degree cumulative, and prolong the prothrombin time.
- Salicylamide exerts a quicker and deeper effect, and because it is rapidly diffused into various body tissues, peak serum levels are much lower than those encountered with other salicylates. Unlike other salicylates, it is not broken down to free salicylic acid in the stomach.
- 

## COSALIDE

provides salicylamide 7½ grains together with 1 grain of caffeine and ¼ grain of codeine, and thus combines the analgesic and antipyretic action of salicylamide with the analgesic action of codeine and the stimulating counteraction of caffeine.

This combination represents a marked improvement on the previously used aspirin compound preparations for the relief of inflammation and pain in a wide variety of conditions.

*Available in bottles of 25, 100 and 500.*

Salicylamide itself is available as tablets of 7½ gr. under the name of AMIDOSAL in bottles of 25, 100 and 500.

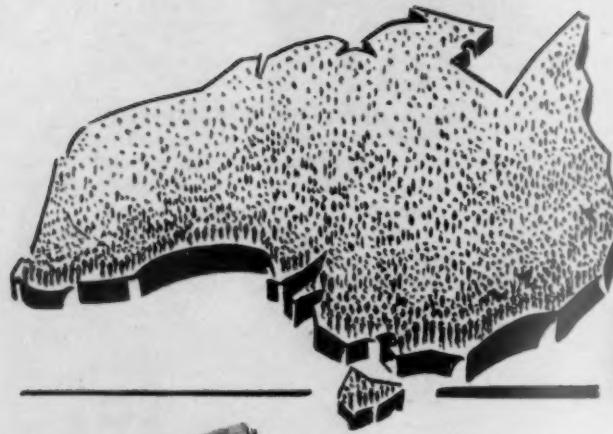
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Felton, Grimwade & Duerdins Pty. Ltd.,  
Melbourne, Albury (N.S.W.), Bendigo,  
Geelong, Shepparton and Warragul.  
Taylors Elliotts Pty. Ltd., Brisbane,  
Townsville, Rockhampton and Cairns.



# 8,000,000 CUSTOMERS!

**EVERYBODY** perspires. It's healthy. It's natural, and even the nicest people, at some time or another, suffer from unpleasant breath.

We are reaching these people, 8,000,000 of them, by consistently advertising in the "Australian Women's Weekly."

Our national advertising tells them, in the privacy of their own homes, in a discreet, inoffensive way, that they should buy and use Chloro-PHILLIES daily, "two for body and one for breath." That adds up to a mighty big sales potential. More than one and one quarter million advertising impacts *every month* will carry our story—will sell Chloro-PHILLIES for you—will bring new customers to your store.

To cash in on this advertising, push the Chloro-PHILLIES sales dispenser, discreetly, right out in front and see the sales mount.



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Every person entering your store is a prospect for Chloro-PHILLIES. They are only 1/- a packet and the roll-pack is perfect for pocket or purse.

old Pharmaceutical Benefits Act, the Minister for Health (Mr. Nulsen) was interviewed on May 12 by Messrs. Scott, Dallimore, Allan, Attiwill and Hands.

Mr. Attiwill told the Minister that the status quo of country chemists had been drastically changed by the instruction through the State Health Department that P.B.A. prescriptions should be dispensed by the hospitals and not by private chemists. Section 86 of the new National Health Act removed the previous restriction against supplying pharmaceutical benefits to occupants of public wards in public hospitals. The Guild pressed strongly for dispensing to be carried out only by registered doctors or chemists, and in this it was strongly



Messrs. Geoffrey Skeahan (Fremantle), who is a member of the Guild State Branch Committee of Western Australia, and J. Miller, of Merredin (W.A.), during a recent visit to Merredin by Federal and State Guild officials who had been to Kalgoorlie to address Goldfields members of the Guild.

supported by the Pharmaceutical Council of W.A. Section 94 (5) of the National Health Act provided that dispensing at a hospital should be done by a registered practitioner or registered pharmacist or under the direct supervision of either of such persons. If this was not possible, it was in the general public interest that P.B.A. prescriptions should be written in the prescribed manner and dispensed by private chemists.

The Minister promised to examine the submission and advise the Guild of his decision.

#### At W.A. Guild S.B.C. Meeting.

The Interstate visitors attended the monthly meeting of the W.A. State Branch Committee on May 12. Mr. Scott gave a detailed summary of Federal activities, and declared that there were some weaknesses in the Guild structure that must be repaired. These weaknesses had been the cause of the compromise with the Government last year on the pensioner medicine service. There had been some victories and some defeats last year. "All the time we must organise and carry the message to the Guild member," said Mr. Scott.

Mr. Attiwill gave the Committee further details of the preliminary steps he had taken to investigate the Guild magazine proposal (see earlier references in this report).

#### Special Meeting in Perth.

Introducing the speakers at a special meeting of the Western Australian Branch of the Guild on Wednesday night, May 12, the President (Mr. G. D. Allan) said:

"It is the first time in the history of the Guild that

the Federal Executive (which consists of Mr. Eric Scott, Federal President, Mr. George Dallimore, Deputy Federal President, and Mr. Walter Cotterell, Federal Treasurer) has met in Perth. With it is Mr. Keith Attiwill, our Federal Public Relations Director. This is a striking example of the mobility of our Federal organisation.

"It also emphasises the scope of the Guild. The Guild, as Mr. Scott often says, was born in strife, and *service* to members is its middle name. The day the Guild ceases to fight because it has become complacent it will cease to have a place in the community. While we have virile leadership and progressive executives that day will never come.

"The Guild is a mighty organisation, expanding all the time. Mr. Scott and Mr. Attiwill fly about 35,000 miles a year. Mr. Scott regards it as his duty to visit each State once a year, so that he can give a personal report to members, to meet them personally, and to hear and discuss their problems at first hand. Mr. Attiwill is almost constantly moving round the States in close contact with us.

"As a member of the Federal Council, I have seen something of our Federal Office, and I realise the excellent work that the Federal Guild organisation is doing on our behalf.

"Before calling upon Mr. Scott and his colleagues, I would like particularly to welcome here tonight our Fourth Year Students—the Guild Members of Tomorrow! I trust that they will enjoy and profit from the addresses."

#### Eventful Ten Years.

"It is ten years since I came to you with our original Federal President (Mr. A. W. McGibbony) and put before you the proposals of the Chifley Government to provide 'free' medicine to the people of Australia," said Mr. Scott in a stimulating address.

Reviewing events since 1944, Mr. Scott said, "There has been a revolution in pharmacy in that decade. Turnovers were small. Mr. Chifley called Mr. McGibbony and me to his office, told us about his 'free' medicine plans, and asked us what we would charge to dispense it. Up to that stage we had never divided up the cost of a bottle of medicine we sold for, say, 2/6. We still did lodge work at 9/- a year. Our policy seemed until then to have been a policy of despair. But we had the temerity to tell Mr. Chifley, 'We are not going to charge for a bottle of medicine. We are going to charge for the bottle and for the labour and for the ingredients. If we cannot do that, we will not come into your scheme.' He said, 'Whom do you represent?' We replied, 'Over 90 per cent. of the retail chemists of Australia.' Mr. Chifley answered, 'Then you are the boys for me!' We said, 'We are professional men, and we intend to charge upon a professional basis.' Perhaps if we had stuck entirely to that original P.B.A. scheme we would have been much better off. But the original scheme failed, and was succeeded by the Page restricted list of drugs. Sir Earle Page said, 'People who get something for nothing do not value it.' We knew that by accepting the new scheme we would endanger our professional fees. Our fight has been and is to convince the Government that there is just as much professional skill involved in supplying the right drugs under the Page scheme as there was in compounding them under the McKenna scheme. We have to educate the doctor and the Government. It is wrong, and potentially dangerous to the standard of the whole scheme, for ignorant persons to say, 'Anybody can hand out these things' (potent drugs)."

Mr. Scott's address was warmly applauded.

A member asked about the position of hospital dispensing for public ward patients, and Mr. Attiwill told the meeting about the interview with the State Minister for Health (Mr. Nulsen) earlier that day (Applause).



#### AND OTHER FUNGOUS INFECTIONS OF THE SKIN

In the summer months when tinea and other fungous infections become most active the demand for a dependable preparation for their treatment increases in proportion. Undex, which has proven its effectiveness in the prophylactic and therapeutic treatment of these infections, becomes more than ever a necessity to every pharmacist's stock.

The Ointment—in 2-oz. tubes.  
The Powder—in 3-oz. sprinkler drums.

# UNDEX

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#### Magazine Project Praised.

Mr. Attiwill then described the magazine project to the meeting, and at a later stage, in seconding a vote of thanks to Messrs. Scott, Cotterell and Attiwill, Mr. Hugh Howling (who was an original member of the Federal Council) said that the plan impressed him as a splendid one. Pharmacy must advertise itself more, and by getting solidly behind projects such as the magazine suggested by Mr. Attiwill it would increase its strength and stability.

Mr. Cotterell said that the Federal Council share of the Guild membership fees was well spent—it was infinitesimal in relation to the amount of work done. Even though members might beg to differ, they must face the world together and show complete loyalty to the Federal Council.

#### Mr. Griff Allan's Fine Work.

Proposing a vote of thanks to the visitors, Mr. Dallimore (Deputy Federal President and immediate past



Mesdames Robert T. Hallo and Geoffrey Skeahan provided Mr. Keith Attiwill with this snapshot at Merredin (W.A.) during a recent Guild visit on May 9. Mrs. Skeahan (whose husband is a member of the State Branch Committee of the Guild) and Mrs. Hallo (wife of the Secretary and Organiser of the Guild in Western Australia) accompanied their husbands on an official visit to the Goldfields and Merredin chemists.

President of the W.A. Branch) said that he would couple with the names of the visitors that of Mr. Griff Allan, the State President. Since Mr. Allan had assumed office he had devoted much time to the Guild. (Applause.)

Mr. Hugh Howling said, "When I look back to that first Federal Council, I realise that we had no idea that the Guild would ever reach these proportions. If I had my time over again, in spite of all the problems, I'd still be a chemist. (Applause.) We are grateful to have men of the calibre of our visitors. (Hear, hear.) The magazine idea appeals to me very greatly, and I congratulate the Public Relations Secretariat upon its good work to raise the public appreciation of the retail chemists."

#### Informal Talks About Problems.

Messrs. Scott, Cotterell and Attiwill attended informal talks with members of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia. Those present included Messrs. R. I. Cohen (President), H. D. Fitch (Immediate Past President), G. H. Dallimore, A. A. Baxter, and the Registrar (Mr. F. W. Avenell).

# Victorian College of Pharmacy

## Presentation of Final Examination and Fellowship Certificates

### Stirring Address by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia

Sir Owen Dixon, K.C.M.G., Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, delivered the address to the graduates at the ceremony of presentation of Diplomas in the Union Theatre, University of Melbourne, on the evening of May 10.

In the absence of the President (Mr. I. J. Thompson) overseas and of the Vice-President (Mr. E. Scott) in Western Australia, Mr. Leonard Long presided over the gathering of over 450, which included graduates, their parents and friends, and previous employers and representative members of the Council of the Pharmacy Board and representatives of the principal pharmaceutical organisations.

#### Welcome and Introductory Remarks by Mr. Leonard Long.

Sir Owen Dixon, Mr. Braithwaite, President of the Pharmacy Board, Mr. Sissons, Dean of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Mr. Lee, President of the Victorian Branch of the Guild, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Due to the absence abroad of our worthy President, Mr. Ivan J. Thompson, who will be representing Australian pharmacy at the British Pharmaceutical Conference to be held at Oxford later this year, and also in the absence of our Vice-President, Mr. Eric Scott, who is at present in Perth, it is my pleasant duty and responsibility to welcome you tonight on behalf of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria.

This function marks a very important occasion in the pharmaceutical year, and gives us all the opportunity to welcome those newly qualified graduates who enter the ranks of our profession as pharmaceutical chemists.

As you are all aware, it is just on 100 years since several responsible pharmaceutical chemists in the Colony of Victoria decided amongst themselves to form a Pharmaceutical Society based on the pattern of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain founded in London some 10 years previously. One of the main objects of the formation of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria was to establish an institution for the training and instruction of future pharmaceutical chemists in the State. As a result of the enthusiasm, drive and initiative of those pioneers, the School of Pharmacy was eventually established in the former County Court Buildings, 360 Swanston street, Melbourne. It is therefore particularly fitting that tonight the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria has as its guest speaker the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, the Right Honourable Sir Owen Dixon, K.C.M.G.

In introducing Sir Owen to you I have very little to say because you all know his distinguished career, his fine record and the very responsible position he holds. I think, however, Sir Owen will understand if I say on behalf of the President and members that it is our desire that he accepts our warm welcome most sincerely. We are most appreciative of his presence, and we are deeply grateful to him for his gracious acceptance of our invitation to deliver the address tonight. (Applause.)

#### Sir Owen Dixon's Address.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen:

It is not, I think, for Law to say much about Science. Science probably becomes very easily wearied by Law. I should like to begin by thanking you, Mr. Chairman, for what you have said about myself. Thank you, too, for mentioning the curious circumstance which led to

the County Court in Melbourne providing the cradle from which came this great Society of pharmaceutical chemists.

I feel a great deal of pleasure in being asked to address this meeting, little as I have to lay before it. It is a compliment to my profession that another profession should call upon it to be represented at one of its gatherings. I should like particularly to begin by congratulating those who have come tonight to receive their certificates, having completed the course entitling them to registration as pharmaceutical chemists by passing the Final Examination and fulfilling the requirements of apprenticeship and training. That to me seems to be no small feat. It marks a milestone for you which you should feel is not only the end of a period of effort, but also is the beginning of a career. You have each devoted yourself to a very important branch of social service. It is true to say that yours is a vocation to which people are called. The call may have been faintly heard when you began, but I am sure that now you are all ready to render a great service to the community. It is no new profession. Its antiquity is really tremendous, and goes back to the remotest periods of recorded time, recorded on the tablets which have been found. That perhaps is very small comfort, because the records show that it was most unscientific. Its antiquity is recorded in the Old Testament in a passage which seems to me possibly to carry more than one suitable lesson. You will find in Ecclesiastes this statement: "Dead flies cause



Mr. H. A. Braithwaite, President of the Pharmacy Board, congratulates one of the graduands.

the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly (in the case of) him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."

I think that both parts of the statement give a counsel of care. The first part of the statement may indicate that from the earliest times there was a certain hygienic element in the profession, but doubtless it has a cautionary application in the more bacteriological aspects of modern science. The second part has an application to all professions. It is a warning that even when you have gained a reputation the least condescension to foolishness may be its undoing.

think of Law standing with the other two professions. Medicine stands as an ever-developing profession which directs itself to the welfare of the community. In this respect popular judgment seems at the moment increasingly to treat it as standing apart from physical science. What will be said if ever and whenever bacteriological warfare comes forward I do not know, but at present the biological side of science stands in higher veneration. There should be little doubt that pharmaceutical work forms a strong and most important auxiliary to the application and development of medical science.



A section of the audience.

The vocation to which you have been called is a profession. It is a profession in the true sense of the word. Profession is a much-discussed word, and has been variously defined in the past, but I think now it may be taken to be any vocation in which there is a professed knowledge of some department of science or of learning if it is used in its application to the affairs of others or to the practice of an art founded upon it. Pharmaceutical chemistry comes completely within such a definition. The knowledge which you have acquired over the last four years, years over which you will perhaps look back as you come to obtain your certificates, is a department of science, and it is applied to the affairs of others. In the past very few callings were regarded as learned professions. Two or three centuries ago three professions seem to have been acknowledged: Divinity, Medicine and Law. As I understand they are the professions which were acknowledged in the 17th century. I rather like to

The ideas, however, of what is a profession have undergone some change. There was a time, a time early in the 19th century, when it was not uncommon for people to claim that there were and could be only four professions: the Church, the Navy, the Army and the Bar. No other professions were allowed. Why was that? It is quite easy to see that on any footing the Air Force has brought a fifth. But the reason that was given was that those four professions had a characteristic which other branches of applied science and applied learning had not. They took a place in the organisation of the State. Obviously enough, the Army and Navy took their important parts in the organisation of a state. Obviously enough they were based upon particular branches of knowledge, branches of knowledge which have grown ever more special and more extensive. The Church took its place as the established church. But apart from that it was considered essential to make up a Christian State. The Bar was indis-

pensable to the administration of public justice, and public justice is a primary function of government, yet the Bar is not part of the State. Because of the place they took in relation to the State, those four professions were singled out at one time as the only professions. But if you look at your own profession, has it not now got the same quality? Is it not making a great contribution to the social service of the State? Has it not become as indispensable almost as any of the other services which stand outside the regular organisation of government? I speak of services upon which the community depends, but which do not form part of the State. They are carried on independently of the direction of the State, important as they are for the conduct of the work of social organisation and social service. I think the answer must certainly be that pharmacy has the same essential quality that was thus supposed to distinguish the four professions formerly acknowledged.

Throughout the English-speaking world the learned professions have become very conscious of the greater demands made upon them by government. In every English-speaking country the State has found it necessary more and more to resort to the learned professions; to the professions based on the physical sciences, on the biological sciences, on engineering, on economics, on the science of education, and even on law. Ever-increasing numbers of professional men enter the public service, not only here, but in America, and particularly in Great Britain. What may be the effect of this upon professional standards, upon the control by professional bodies and upon traditional customs and practices is a matter worthy of consideration. As I read, it has already become the subject of study if not of dispute.

But whatever else may be said of the future of the learned professions that are based on science or other branches of learning, there seems to be one thing certain of those with a scientific foundation. They will require an ever-widening basis of knowledge, and the preparation for them will require study that will become ever deeper and ever more extensive. Those who follow the graduates of today may well ponder the extent of the studies they will be called upon to make. Those who come to receive their certificates tonight may perhaps congratulate themselves that they have fulfilled now the study that is required of them by law.

It has, I believe, been characteristic of pharmacy for a long time to increase the basis of the study and the basis of knowledge required as a qualification for those about to conduct that particular service to the community. I was interested to find that the Pharmacy College in New York has for a long time formed an integral part of the University of Columbia. Similar colleges have been instituted in many cities in the United States, and there has long been in the United States an association of Pharmacy Colleges. That association influences pharmaceutical education throughout America. I think the Pharmacy College of the Columbia University goes back for over a century, and yet with that long tradition, a long history in New York of high educational and scientific qualification for the profession, the great paradox exists of over-commercialisation; what, as the layman would suppose, was an over-commercialisation to the subordination of the function of pharmacy. It is difficult to know why that should be so. The American drug store does not present a picture of scientific achievement. It looks much more like a great achievement of business expansion and extension. The theory prevalent in the United States would seem to be that there has been a weakening of demand for what are really pharmaceutical services. It would seem to be an instance of action and a reaction. If a weakening of demand led to over-commercialisation, so, as commercialisation proceeds, the demand for pharmaceutical services loses still further its comparative importance. A suggestion has been made that the great length of time required to qualify for pharmacy makes those who qualify even

more keen to look for quick returns. But that suggestion depicts a pharmacist as too human.

There is in Australia, and in the United Kingdom it seems, a far greater reliance by the public upon pharmaceutical services in the strict sense. It needs no particular knowledge of the matter to be aware of that. It is enough to move about in the community. The result is that pharmaceutical practice takes its place as an accepted service fulfilling a common need. Pharmacy often seems to be called upon to give assistance, counsel and confidence to numbers of individuals who waver between self help and a regular course of medical treatment when they are uncertain what they ought to do for themselves, their parents, or their children. All of you may regard yourselves as ministering to a felt want in this community.

The foundation of applied science is a sound training. The training through which you have come to receive your diplomas may have seemed to you a heavy course of study and indoctrination, but the discipline involved in learning any subject is a discipline of the mind, and it is a discipline that is usually reflected in outward manners. You may think that you are destined to go in one set course of life, but great men have begun with a pharmaceutical training and have developed in many spheres. It is a commonplace observation or quip that the greatest men the law has produced are not engaged in the practice of the law. Perhaps it is true of other professions. There are two men, both of whom I have known, whom I should like to mention to you as great Australians who first chose the profession of pharmacy. Both attained great eminence in different fields, and both began their careers as pharmaceutical chemists. I refer to them partly because of the great respect that I bear to them, and the desire to call them to the minds of younger people, but partly because I think that in any profession it is always desirable that those coming new to it should know of the magnificent successes of those who preceded them.

The first is Sir John Michael Higgins, who died in 1937. It seems a pity that his memory should fade.

Sir John Michael Higgins was born in Castlemaine. He qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist, and then turned to metallurgy, which he learned at the Bendigo School of Mines. Armed with a considerable training in general chemistry and in metallurgy, and with a naturally scientific mind, he made his career. He passed through a stage of being a surgeon's dresser. He turned to industrial chemistry and thence to a smelting works. He travelled all over Australia, and carried his knowledge to research in precious stones. Through metallurgy and the smelting of base metals he made a modest fortune. Base metals brought him into contact with foreign exchange, and he applied his scientific mind to the study of economics and exchange. Two or three years before the 1914-1918 War he determined that the time had come when he had achieved enough for himself, and he would devote the remaining third of his life to public service. He spent three years abroad, and there was little about industry or economics that he did not learn. He travelled through Russia, China, Japan, Malaya, England, Germany, Holland and other countries. On the eve of war he placed his services at the disposal of the Government. His services were used by the Treasury. He advised the Government how to deal with the great German base metal cartel, and perhaps it was his mind that was responsible for the measures against the German metal ring at the outbreak of the war. In 1917 he was placed in control of the Australian side of the great Imperial Wool Purchase Arrangement of that war. Under him grew a method of dealing with Australian wool in wartime which challenged the admiration of those who saw it develop. His influence at home was great. He was not one of the Australians who was well advertised, but those who had any participation in affairs knew that his influence was very great indeed. You will see why I mentioned him. He was first and last a scientist

who brought to the practical affairs of life an approach which placed technical study first.

The next man I shall mention is happily still alive. He is one of the greatest surgeons of our time—Sir Thomas Dunhill. He, too, began his career here as a pharmacist. He turned to medicine, and after qualifying as a surgeon in Melbourne he joined the Army Medical Corps in the war of 1914-18. His surgery attracted widespread attention. After the war he was inevitably taken to England, and there he became consulting surgeon to St. Bartholomew's. He became surgeon to the Royal Household and surgeon to King George V and Sergeant Surgeon to King George VI. But he is all too little known in this his own country. It is, I think, something for an Australian who began his career as a pharmacist to become the leading surgeon in England and to be able to say at the end of his career, "I have only two patients—one is the King, the other is Mr. Churchill." Sir Thomas Dunhill could say that.

I think these things are worth mentioning to you who are beginning in no different way from these men. It does not follow that you are all destined to be great men. It is a question of capacity and effort. Other professions produce men who make careers that are outside it, but are traceable to its influence. Every man who makes his life's work a profession owes a duty to the profession. The respect in which a profession is held depends on the efficiency and effectiveness of the service it performs for the community. It depends upon the standards of knowledge and of professional conduct and the general character and stamp of the men it produces. The duty of a man to his chosen profession is no new theme. Indeed, it has never been better stated than it was over three centuries ago by Sir Francis Bacon. It is as well to conclude with his words:—

"I hold every man a debtor to his profession; from the which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereto. This is performed in some degree by the honest and liberal practice of a profession, when men shall carry a respect not to descend into any course that is corrupt and unworthy thereof, and preserve themselves free from the abuses wherewith the same profession is noted to be infected; but much more is this performed if a man be able to visit and strengthen the roots and foundation of the science itself; thereby not only gracing it in reputation and dignity, but also amplifying it in perfection and substance."

The language may be Elizabethan, but I think the thought is appropriate to modern times.

#### Presentation of Certificates.

Mr. Sissons, Dean of the College, at the request of the Chairman, now introduced to the President of the Pharmacy Board (Mr. H. A. Braithwaite) the following graduates to receive their certificates:—

ALBON, J. S.  
ALEXANDER, D. C.  
ALKEMADE, Jean Elaine.  
ALLAN, G. A.  
ALLMAND, G. R.  
ANSON, Judith Robertson  
(Mrs. R. L. Graham).  
ASHLEY, Patricia Helen.  
ASHLEY, P. McD.  
BARCHAM, J. N.  
BERG, E. P.  
BERTRAM, N. A.  
BROOKS, K. R. J.  
BRY, B. B.  
BURRELL, P. J.  
BUTCHER, B. L.  
CAINE, Ursula Maud.

CARLYLE, Ailsa Jean.  
CLAREY, R. L.  
COLLINS, P. R.  
COPELAND, G. A.  
CRYSTAL, P. A.  
DEAN, Stephanie Lillian  
(Mrs. D. Johnson).  
DELZOPPO, J. E.  
DE RAVIN, J. T.  
DODGSHUN, Margaret  
Jessie.  
EDGERTON, Margaret  
Joan.  
EVANS, Mary Lorraine.  
FERGUSON, N.  
GOLDING, Z. J.  
GOOD, W. L.

GRIGG, W. N.  
GROSS, V.  
HALL, K. R.  
HALL, M. W.  
HATTAM, Florence  
Gwendolyn.  
HALPRIN, M.  
HIGGINS, Barbara  
Elizabeth.  
HORSFIELD, D. R.  
HUMPHREYS, Christine  
Alice.  
JENKINS, Margaret  
Helen.  
KAPPER, Ingrid Mary.  
KERR, Valma Pearl.  
LANG, W. J.  
LEAMAN, J. S.  
LLOYD, N. B.  
LOWE, G. J.  
MACDONALD, Enid  
Grace (Mrs.).  
MALLER, N.  
MATTHEWS, C. S.  
MINEALL, Laurel Flo-  
rence (Mrs. L. F. Ferry).  
MITCHELL, C. J.  
MORTER, Doreen Bonnie  
Winifred.  
MUNRO, A. D.  
MUIR, R.  
MUNDAY, Judith Ann.  
MURRAY, Patricia Ellen.  
MYERSCOUGH, R. R.  
McCLEERY, Lorna Jean.  
McKENZIE, Kirsty  
Matheson.  
McKINNON, N. L.

#### Presentations in absentia:

AANENSEN, P. W.  
BELL, G. S.  
BLYTH, J. L.  
BLYTH, J. N.  
CARTER, Adrienne Nancy  
(Mrs. Mursell).  
CHINN, Agnes Veronica.  
FIDGE, Yvonne.  
GUNNER, G. K.

#### Graduates Unable to Attend:

ANDERSON, S. R.  
BROBERG, K. N.  
DOWNES, Marcia  
Catherine.  
KERBY, M.  
McMARTIN, Marion  
Helen.  
MUNTZ, Judith Mary.

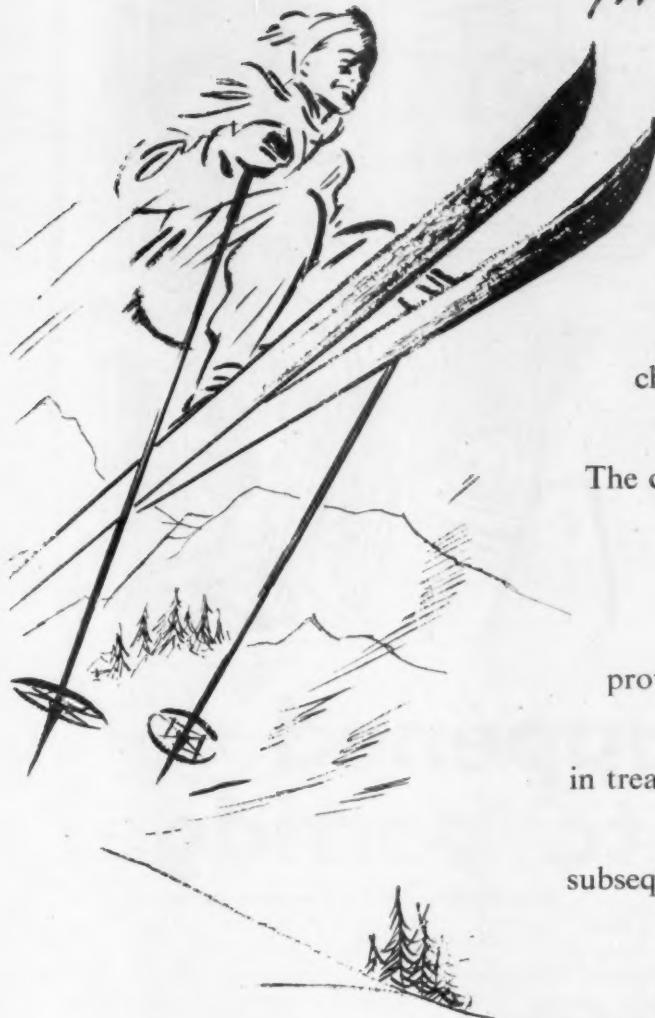
PEELER, M. E.  
THOMPSON, Iris Rae.  
WEAVER, Margaret  
Grace.  
WOODS, G. J.  
DAVEY, P. M.  
LOWELL, R. L.

#### Mr. Braithwaite's Remarks.

Mr. Deputy President, Sir Owen Dixon, ladies and gentlemen,

These people who have received certificates have gained qualification in our calling. They have gained it well and truly, and speaking on behalf of my fellow members of the Board, I can say that with all sincerity. We do say to them that we wish them all the best of life. We ourselves, over the years, have gained a lot of satisfaction from our calling. In practising our profession in all its aspects we have gained true satisfaction in our work that comes from service. If they can get the same satisfaction they will receive ample recompense for the years of study that are now behind them. We hope they will go on to years of study in the future—study that will give them much satisfaction.

We trust they will pursue this sort of voluntary study that will give them satisfaction in the service of the community for which service they are now amply prepared.



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tailer! In increased turnovers. And savings in selling time, too, because the extra customers that national advertising brings to your store have already been favourably influenced by the merits of a particular brand-name.

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Today food manufacturers do a grand total of 80% of their color advertising in the pages of "The Australian Women's Weekly." They know that those scrumptious color pages of food advertising that you see in the pages of this magazine do a maximum selling job. With its huge 750,000 cir-

culation, "The Australian Women's Weekly" reaches HALF of all Australian homes—one in every two customers who come into your store.

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Whenever you see an advertisement for a brand-name line that you stock, clip out the ad. and feature it with special counter and window displays while the advertisement is current.

\* Source: Calculated from estimates supplied by A. C. Nielsen Food Index and Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics

*The Australian*

# WOMEN'S WEEKLY

#### Presentation of Fellowship Diplomas.

Mr. Long said it was his duty on behalf of the President of the Society to present the diplomas to those who had qualified for the Fellowship. In presenting these diplomas they felt proud that these people have gone on to higher studies—many just for the search of knowledge or interest in their profession.

Mr. A. T. S. Sissons then introduced the following Fellows, and in doing so said the Council and the Lectorial Board took particular interest and pride in the accomplishments of those who voluntarily undertake the post-graduate course extending usually over two years of arduous evening work.

Names of Fellows then called, and certificates presented to the following:

#### Fellows:

BEDFORD, F. H.  
ELDER, Jean Margaret.  
GRICE, Joan.

IBBOTT, Gweneth  
Kathleen (Mrs.).  
KRANTZ, A.  
MACKAY, W. R.

#### In absentia:

DAVIDSON, Myfanwy  
Rebecca.

RICHARDS, Vera  
Catherine.

After presenting the Diplomas, Mr. Long said:

Mr. Dean, I thank you for presenting those successful Fellows, and it gives me great pleasure indeed to present them on behalf of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society.

I have the greatest respect for those who in search of knowledge voluntarily put aside for a time many of the pleasures others enjoy. But I think it depends on the foundations we lay how far we will go in the future. In the taking of advanced scholastic courses, one assumes more responsibility. You have gained by your higher qualifications these responsibilities, and I hope that in taking those responsibilities you pledge yourselves to maintain the honour and the dignity of your profession throughout your career, whether it be in private practice, in hospital work, in the manufacturing sphere. We do wish you every success in your future activities.

#### Vote of Thanks to Chief Justice.

Dr. B. L. Stanton: Mr. Chairman, President of the Board, the Dean, ladies and gentlemen,

I have been entrusted with the very happy task of expressing on your behalf our very deep appreciation and grateful thanks to Sir Owen for his presence here this evening, and for the interesting, stimulating and at times provocative speech which he made.

I could not but feel a sense of envy as I watched those young people come along for their diplomas. Quite a few years ago I received such a diploma—by post. A most unrealistic document. But under the circumstances of tonight, had I received my diploma at the hands of Sir Owen, I could perhaps have believed that at least I had the backing of the High Court. (Laughter and applause.)

I have therefore great pleasure, sir, in conveying to you appreciative thanks of the audience.

Mr. S. J. Baird: Mr. Chairman, Sir Owen Dixon, ladies and gentlemen,

In rising to second this vote of thanks, I do so particularly on behalf of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society.

The Council is very conscious of the demands made on the time of such a man as the Chief Justice of the High Court, but perhaps we were emboldened a little on this occasion by knowing that Sir Owen's daughter is pursuing the course at our College.

We have been treated to a most inspiring address by you, sir, and on behalf of the Council and the Executive I do most heartily support the remarks made by Dr. Stanton, and have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks. (Applause.)

The ceremony terminated at 9.30 p.m., and supper was served in the Union Hall.

#### FIRST SYNTHESIS OF PITUITARY HORMONE

A hormone of the pituitary gland has been made synthetically by a group of chemists led by Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud, Professor of Biochemistry of Cornell University Medical College in New York City. The synthesis is announced in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Chemical Society, and comprises the first synthesis of a pituitary hormone.

The pituitary, which seems to be the body's master gland, is situated in close contact with the brain, and excretes chemicals, known as hormones, which control both the emotional and physical state of the body. A well-known example of such a hormone is the so-called A.C.T.H., which can be isolated from the pituitary glands of slaughtered cattle, and has found wide use in clinical medicine, especially in arresting the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis. Another such hormone is oxytocin, which is apparently concerned in the regulation of the birth process. When injected into women, even in extremely minute doses, it causes strong contractions of the uterus, and thus brings on childbirth. It is concerned in the "let-down" of milk from the mammary glands.

Before any real progress could be made in determining the composition of oxytocin, that is, its exact chemical formula, it was necessary to obtain the hormone in a highly purified form, and more than ten years of research went into this phase of the work. Chemical study of the pure substance showed it to be a "peptide," that is, it is made up of a number of "amino acids" linked together in a special way. "Amino acids" are in themselves quite complicated molecules, and are also the "building blocks" of the hormone insulin and of the so-called "proteins," of which so much living tissue is composed.

Oxytocin was found to contain in its structure eight different amino acid units, and three molecules of ammonia. About 22 amino acids are known to occur in living matter, and those found in the oxytocin molecule are known to chemists as leucine, isoleucine, proline, tyrosine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glycine and cystine. Further very exacting and intricate chemical work led to the determination of the sequence in which these amino acids are linked together in oxytocin, and also of the disposition of the ammonia molecules, so that in mid-1952 it became possible to write a chemical formula, employing 135 symbols, which described exactly the chemical structure of the oxytocin molecule.

The synthesis of a compound containing only three such amino acid units is a difficult task. These chemists were faced with the immensely difficult undertaking of putting eight amino acids together in exactly the same order and arrangement indicated by the structural studies.

Work of this nature was still in its preliminary stages when Dr. J. M. Swan, a young Australian chemist, joined the research staff of the Cornell Medical College on leave of absence from C.S.I.R.O. Wool Textile Research Laboratories, Melbourne. Within a few months, largely owing to the efforts of Dr. Swan, new methods for linking glutamic acid to other amino acids were evolved. Shortly afterwards, by the combined effort of the team, the complete synthesis of oxytocin was accomplished. Final proof of the identity of the compound synthesised was provided by the typical biological effects produced by the synthetic product. It was found to be fully effective in stimulating labour in the human, and it likewise possessed milk-releasing activity. Approximately one-millionth of a gram of either the synthetic or natural material given to a patient intravenously induced milk release in 20 to 30 seconds.

Dr. Swan has now returned to the C.S.I.R.O. Wool Textile Research Laboratories in Melbourne, and is continuing research on the synthesis of large peptide molecules.

—C.S.I.R.O. Press Release, 15/4/1954.

# N.S.W. Graduation Ceremony

The first graduation ceremony to be held in New South Wales took place in the Stawell Hall of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians on April 22, when the Honorable the Minister for Health, Mr. M. O'Sullivan, M.L.A., presented Certificates of Registration to recent graduates.

The function was organised by the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales in conjunction with the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales.

Punctually at 8 p.m. the President of the Society, Mr. E. G. Hall, took the rostrum, and opened proceedings by welcoming the Honorable the Minister for Health, Mr. O'Sullivan; the Under Secretary, Department of Health, Mr. G. R. Cameron; the President of the Pharmacy Board of N.S.W., Mr. J. L. Townley; the Registrar, Mr. P. E. Cosgrave; the Director of Pharmaceutical Public Relations, Mr. K. G. Attiwill, who was present from Melbourne; also Mrs. Chambers, who had first propounded the idea of a graduation ceremony.

Mr. Hall said he was glad to welcome back to Australia, Professor R. H. Thorp, the Director of Pharmaceutical Studies, who had recently returned from a world tour. Mr. Hall also welcomed Mr. S. E. Wright, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy, and Miss D. K. Large.

Mr. Hall said he was happy to convey greetings to the Vice-President of the New South Wales Branch of the Guild, Mr. Orion C. V. Leggo, who was deputising for Mr. Leslie W. Smith, absent in Brisbane.

Mr. Hall said that apologies had been received from Mr. H. W. Read (examiner) and Mr. Leslie W. Smith (examiner).

Mr. Hall then addressed the assemblage, using these words:

"It is indeed a pleasure for me to welcome you all here this evening to the inaugural presentation night of Registration Certificates. The main idea behind this evening's ceremony is to awaken within the newly-qualified pharmaceutical chemists a feeling that you have actually graduated into a time-honoured profession which holds a peculiarly exclusive place in the eyes of the general community. By this innovation we hope to inculcate in the minds of our new chemists a feeling of pride in achievement and to impart to you in some small way a sense of new, highly-prized responsibility of which you cannot be completely insensible."

"You are now to all intents and purposes trusted experts in the handling of drugs, trained to advise and even protect the general public in all matters appertaining to the consumption of medicine; a person respected in your community, one who can now take



From left to right: Mr. E. G. Hall delivering his introductory address. The Hon. the Minister for Health, Mr. M. O'Sullivan. The Minister presenting Certificates of Registration. Mr. Keith Attiwill, Federal Director of Public Relations. Mr. J. L. Townley, President of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales. A section of the audience.

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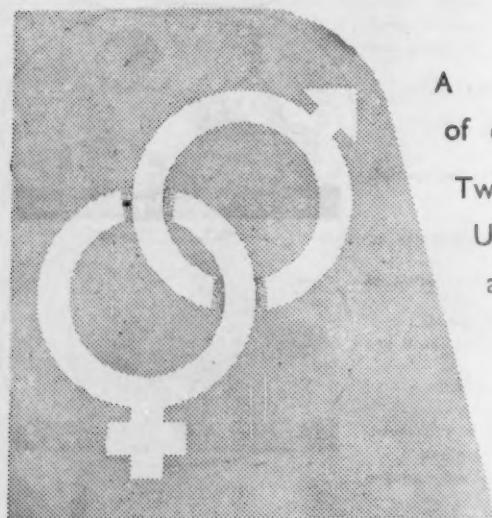


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his or her rightful place in complete liaison with the medical profession.

"Your pride in achievement must also be shared tonight by others very closely associated with you—I refer to your parents and your former master. I can well imagine the feelings experienced by your people that you have now become qualified citizens of substance, and that they feel they have been amply repaid for the undoubted sacrifices they have made to enable you to complete your course. I could not imagine any parent here this evening whose heart will not swell with pride to see their son or daughter step up here to receive their Diploma from our esteemed Minister for Health. Your master must feel happy to have successfully trained a young person toward qualification, and let me remind you never to forget the debt you owe to the chemist to whom you were apprenticed.

"You are going to get a lot out of pharmacy both financially and in wealth of experience. Allow me to impress upon you not to forget to put something back into your profession. Whenever you dispense a prescription or have dealings at the counter, always picture yourself on the other side of the fence, and consider whether you would like to have the particular prescription prepared for you or whether you would like to be served at the counter in that particular fashion. Remember always that ethics are not just a lot of rot: 'doing unto others as you would,' etc., holds good today just as it has done throughout time. Take a vital interest in your Pharmaceutical Society. Keep yourself acquainted with its functions and its work, as pharmacy can only remain a strong force while it has a strong society, and if you are lucky enough to become a master pharmacist, support your Pharmaceutical Service Guild. Never forget you are a member of a team, and no team can succeed if one of its members drops the ball.

"Permit me firstly on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, and also on my own behalf, to congratulate you on your registration, and wish you every success in your future career in pharmacy." (Applause.)

Mr. Hall then called upon the President of the Pharmacy Board, Mr. Townley, to address the graduates, their parents and friends.

Mr. Townley said it would not be long before the graduates would be receiving their diplomas in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney. Professor Thorp was now back in Australia, and he would get to work to see that the new pharmacy course came into being as soon as possible.

Mr. Townley adjured the young pharmacists to take an interest in the affairs of their organisations, such as the Pharmaceutical Society and the Pharmaceutical Guild, which bodies needed new blood from time to time. Mr. Townley added that his career in pharmacy dated from 1908.

Mr. Townley said that pharmacy was lucky to have a Minister for Health who had taken such an interest in educational matters. Due to his influence, the sum of £500,000 was to be spent at the University, and this would improve pharmacy there. (Applause.)

Mr. Hall then introduced Mr. Keith Attiwill, who had made the trip from Melbourne to be present.

Mr. Attiwill said it was a very great privilege to have been invited to attend the inaugural function at which Certificates of Registration would be presented to graduates. Times were changing, and he had been associated long enough with pharmacy to realise that we must move with the changing times. With the development of the National Health Scheme had come more and more recognition of the place the pharmacist held in the community. The ceremony this evening was tangible evidence of graduation, and opportunity should be taken of the ceremony to record the importance of the pharmacist in the organisation of civilisation.

Mr. Attiwill said that on this occasion he was representing the Federal bodies. He had been asked by the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria to convey its con-

gratulations at the inauguration ceremony, and did so accordingly.

"Steps were being taken to develop pharmaceutical education on a Federal level, but it still relied on the autonomy of the States who controlled the pharmacy courses." Mr. Attiwill said he knew of the solid work which had been put into the project in New South Wales. When the pharmacy school at the University was established it would grow to become one of the greatest in the world. It would establish a tradition of its own. Every great school developed a personality of its own.

Addressing the Minister, Mr. Attiwill said: "Mr. Minister, you are on the threshold of an enormous advance in pharmaceutical education in New South Wales." (Applause.)

#### Address by the Hon. the Minister for Health.

Mr. Hall said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I now have the very great pleasure to introduce to you the Minister for Health, Mr. O'Sullivan." (Applause.)

Mr. O'Sullivan said: "A few speakers said that I have done quite a lot for pharmacy, but I would point out that this was only made possible by the labours of a number of people, with pharmacy at heart, to advise me. I refer to Mr. J. L. Townley, Professor Thorp, Mr. Cosgrave and others.

"I thank the Society for its generous invitation to me to attend this graduation ceremony and to present the Certificates of Registration to graduates. This is the first occasion on which such a function has been arranged. The Pharmacy Board is the registering body, but the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales has always taken a great interest in pharmaceutical educational matters, as instanced by the first year lectures which the Society conducts each year. They are extremely successful, as shown by the great attendance at the lectures. It is fitting that the Pharmaceutical Society and the Pharmacy Board should have united in organising this function."

The Minister then referred to reciprocal arrangements made with other countries for the mutual recognition of qualified pharmacists.

Continuing, the Minister said to the graduates: "It must be with a great deal of satisfaction that your parents attend this ceremony to witness tangible evidence of your success at the final examination—the presentation to you of your Certificate of Registration.

"There is one matter I do want to mention. When I became Minister for Health, Professor Thorp, accompanied by other members of a deputation, asked me to take steps to introduce a higher standard for pharmacy training in New South Wales. Eventually I put a Bill through Parliament which I am sure will give you reason for pride in years to come. The only drawback was that there were no facilities at the University. The Premier has now made arrangements to give £500,000 to the University, and the needs of pharmacy must be given first consideration in the expenditure of that sum by the University. A lot of the success in the submission of legislation for a new course is due to Professor Thorp and those who came with him on the deputation.

"Later on we shall introduce the full course, and propose ultimately to conduct a degree course. The pharmacist is an important professional man. He is the last person to handle the drug before administration to the patient. It is a profession of which you ought to be proud. Make it a finer profession," said the Minister, "and do nothing to discredit it."

The Minister said he had heard Mr. Townley say he had started his career in 1908. "In that year I commenced my apprenticeship on 5/- per week. At the age of 21 I got 30/- per week. One condition of apprenticeship was that when it was completed one had to look for a new job. I compare that with the conditions you have today. Now there are plenty of jobs, and the profession of pharmacy has advanced beyond our wildest dreams."

Mr. O'Sullivan said he remembered Mr. Ken Powell's grandfather, who had a chemist shop, but not quite up to the standard which obtained today.

The Minister then offered his congratulations to those who had passed the final examination in pharmacy, and presented certificates of registration to the following graduates:

BRYANT, Bernice Jocelyn.  
COATES, Raymond Leslie.  
COUPLAND, John  
    Sinclair.  
DANIELL, Valerie  
    Lillian, Mrs.  
DASH, Robert MacDonald.  
ELL, Brian.  
GARSKE, Peter Clifford.  
GRiffin, Basil Charles.  
HAWTHORNE, Roy  
    Stuart.  
HORE, Margaret Isabel.  
ILLINGWORTH, John  
    Frederick Ernest.  
JEFFERIS, Mary  
    Eddington.  
JENKINS, June Anne.  
JONES, John Michael.  
KELLY, Maureen Grace.  
LEARMONT, Peter.

LOOMES, Edward Alfred.  
MARSDEN, Denise Joan.  
MIDDLETON, Geoffrey  
    Cecil.  
MORRIS, Lionel Robert.  
POULOS, Peter.  
PRENTICE, John Barry.  
QUAY, Ronald Charles.  
RANGER, Dorothy, Mrs.  
REGAN, John Francis.  
SCOTT, John.  
SIMPSON, Donald  
    William Gordon.  
SMITH, John Michael.  
THRIFT, Peter.  
TUCKER, John Doidge.  
WHEREAT, Jean  
    Margaret.  
WISE, Ilse.  
WOOD, James Walter.  
JONES, Lois Elizabeth.

#### Vote of Thanks.

After the certificates had been presented, Mr. Hall asked Mr. Leggo to move a vote of thanks to the Minister.

Mr. Leggo said he was very proud to move a vote of thanks to the Minister, whose kindness had been shown at every hand. He had listened with interest to the Minister's modest remarks. The name of the Honorable Maurice O'Sullivan would go down in pharmaceutical history. The Minister had lent to pharmacy a listening and receptive ear. All efforts would have been in vain but for that receptive ear.

Mr. Leggo paid a tribute to the Minister's work for pharmacy and the faith which he undoubtedly placed in the pharmacist as a useful unit in the community.

The Minister briefly responded, and the function terminated at 9 p.m.

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# Face to Face With The Customer

## When The Shopper Enters to Buy

By Thos. H. Lewis, M.B.E.

The personality of the trader is a tremendous factor in business building. So much so, indeed, that all the effort put into attracting people to the shop counts for little if, when they are at the counter, his manner or attitude, or that of his salesman, is not of the right sort.

### Knowledge Not Always Acted Upon.

It would almost seem that this remark is trite, and that "everybody knows that." Possibly this is so, but the fact of a person knowing something does not necessarily imply that he will live up to or act upon what he knows. Many a good sale has been spoilt by the bad personality of the salesman, even perhaps when he thinks he is putting his best efforts into his task.

The overbearing salesman can, for the moment, be left out of our thoughts on selling, since he requires lessons in manners before ever he attempts to master the intricacies of salesmanship. Let us, instead, confine our immediate thoughts to bad selling methods on the part of the salesman who is anxious to please.

### Undue Familiarity with the Customer.

Whilst there must be a certain amount of difference in the style to be adopted in addressing people living in differing classes of society, there is no reason on earth for the undue familiarity with which customers are greeted in some shops. Even the common bond of interest in the world of local affairs does not excuse the patronising-cum-affectionate attitude often adopted.

A case in point from my own personal experience. Desiring to purchase a few small "gadgets," I entered a strange shop near Charing Cross Road recently, and was greeted by a cheery "What's for you, old chap?" Now, to be addressed by close acquaintances as "old chap" presupposes a certain modicum of popularity, and has its pleasing aspect; but to be addressed by a complete stranger is a horse of another colour.

### Entering the "Wrong Shop".

Call it snobbery if you will, but I looked upon the greeting as an unqualified impertinence, and with a hasty "Sorry, I have come into the wrong shop," I retreated without purchasing anything.

There was no doubt about it. I had entered the wrong shop, in the sense that it was a place where ordinary courtesy was not extended to customers. And I do not pretend to analyse the incident to ascertain to what extent I was right in refusing the purchase at that shop. All I know is that my sense of the proprieties of business was outraged by what I considered gross familiarity; and I know, too, that most people would think as I did, and that ruffling the feelings of customers is not conducive to the best results in selling.

### A Pigeon-holed Memory.

All of which leads me to the problem of greeting the customer to the best effect. It is not to be expected that a trader should know the names of all his customers, but it is flattering to a shopper to be addressed by his own name, and I would strongly recommend salesmen of every degree to pigeonhole in their memory, as far as they can, the names of people who enter their shops.

It is a harmless little pandering to vanity to be able to say, "Good morning, Mr. Brown," or whatever the name is, when a person enters. The name, of course, may not be known to the salesman in nine cases out of ten, but it is, as I have said, a good plan, where possible, to let the customer feel that he is sufficiently important to be remembered by name.

### The Customer's "Pleasure".

Whilst on the subject of approach—for so the first contact of salesman with customer is usually termed—I am reminded of the man who entered a shop in a violent hurry, and was accosted thus by a very polite salesman: "What is your pleasure, sir?" The customer glared at his questioner for a moment before replying testily: "My pleasure? Well, if it's any business of yours, young man, my particular pleasure is crossword puzzles. But what I want from you is a dress tie!" So you see it is quite possible to be too pedantic in your style of address, even though "old chap," on the other hand, is equally out of the question.

### How the Customer Should be Greeted.

How, then, shall we greet the customer? In these "independent" days, when "sir" does not come any too readily to the lips of even the most junior of junior assistants, I think the cheerful greeting, "Good morning," "Good afternoon," "Good evening," according to the time of day, is the safest, and therefore the best salutation. Say it with a rising inflection in the voice, and as though you really meant it, and it becomes at once a polite greeting and an interested inquiry.

Whatever you do, above all things, do not be tempted to add: "What can I do for you?" Quite recently I heard this phrase spoonerised into "What can I do you for?" by a flurried salesman. It is palpable that a remark which can be so easily twisted as to give an impression a salesman should be the last person in the world to convey is one which should be studiously avoided by the wide-awake salesman.

### "Didn't I Tell You?"

A few weeks ago I happened to be in a large suburban store, speaking to the manager, when a lady of ample proportions came in and asked for a certain preparation. The assistant told her politely enough that the preparation was not stocked, whereupon the customer, leaving the counter, repeated her request to the manager.

He regretted his inability to supply the line from stock, but asked if there was anything else he could supply. Shaking her head, the lady retreated, but as she passed the counter I heard a petulant remark, "Didn't I tell you?" A stony stare was the only acknowledgment the assistant received, but I'll wager the store has lost at least one customer!

### Things Best Left Unsaid.

I know, of course, that it is difficult to conceal one's feelings on occasions, and there are times when one is simply bursting to tell a rude or difficult customer a few home truths; but, if we are to treat selling from the scientific standpoint, we must deal with it more or less as a science, eliminating as far as possible the "human factor"—at least insofar as it bears upon ebullitions of temper or other such weaknesses.

It may not have occurred to many of my readers to formulate and adhere to a strict policy in their selling. The slogan of the gigantic store of Marshall Field is "The customer is always right," meaning, of course, that, no matter what idiosyncrasies the customer may have—short, possibly, of kleptomania or "megrims"—the policy is to leave him with the impression that he is infallible in his dealings with the establishment.

I would not for one moment suggest that this is a policy which can be blindly followed; but, taking it as a general principle, it is sound salesmanship.

### The "Nosey Parkers" of Business.

There is a type of salesman which is simply dreaded and shunned by shoppers. I refer now to those salesmen who can be described as "Nosey Parkers." It is a standing joke that barbers have an overwhelming propensity for asking their customers questions of a personal nature; but, looking at the matter from a more serious point of view, we will quote a few stock questions fired at customers by inquisitive salesmen: "I s'pose you find yourself pretty busy these days, sir?" "D'y'e win anything in the big race?" "Where are you going for your summer holidays?" "How much did you pay for that?"

### Just to Make Conversation.

It may be argued that the salesman merely asks such questions with the idea of making conversation and without impudent curiosity, thinking, no doubt, that this form of affability creates an impression of interest in the customer. But, supposing the position were such that the replies could only be that the customer was not very busy—indeed, that he was unemployed; and that he didn't believe in horse racing; and that he wasn't going anywhere for his summer holidays, as he couldn't afford to; and that the article referred to was not yet paid for! Would he be at all likely to tell the salesman? To modify a Shavian expression—not **very** likely. He would be more apt to tell his inquisitor to mind his own business.

### Creating a Dual Interest.

It is a good thing, however, for the salesman to keep himself informed on current topics, because few customers are averse to exchanging a few cheery words whilst his purchases are being wrapped, and an intelligent grasp of a subject of common knowledge works wonders in getting a customer interested in the salesman as well as in the goods sold. And this dual interest is a fine thing in consolidating business.

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## MISUSE OF WORDS IN LAW

Those who look to the law profession for a livelihood may "thank their lucky stars" that the average layman, disregarding "precept upon precept," stumbles on in the misuse of the English language, since such misuse, exemplified in home-made contracts, deeds and wills, affords much litigation, with attendant fees. But words are the lawyer's and judge's tools, and, if either does not know how to use them, he endangers his own success and the interests of those depending on his acts and judgment. "Here one poor word a hundred cliches makes." Three faults frequently found in language used in the law are tautology, prolixity and the use of inappropriate words. All three of them discredit the offender intellectually to a greater or less extent; but the last mentioned is the most grievous, in that it frequently results in disastrous litigation, especially in cases of contracts, deeds, and wills. To illustrate, Mathews, in his "Words: Their Use and Abuse," tells of an English woman, who, desiring to leave her clothing, etc., to a servant, described them in her will as "personalty" and unwittingly included in her bequest nearly 50,000 dollars.

Real estate is not "bequeathed," personality is not "devised," and a testamentary donee of personality is not a "devisee." "Personalty" is not the same as "personality."

The plural of "Cestui que trust" is "cestuis que trust," not "cestuis que trustent."

One's main calling is not his "avocation," and his secondary occupation is not a "vocation."

"Balance" is improperly used to denote the "remainder" of a thing when part is taken away.

A "depository" is one with whom a thing is deposited; a "repository" is a place of deposit.

"Party" is not a synonym of "person," its meaning being restricted to one who participates in a cause, action, contract, etc.

"Providing" is often improperly used as a conjunction, instead of "provided."

When properly used "vendor" implies a sale of real estate and "seller" a sale of personality. The best usage approves "buyer" as designating one who acquires personality, and "purchaser" as designating one acquiring real estate, rendering "vendee" obsolescent.

Some appellate opinions recite that the "case" is affirmed or reversed, when obviously "judgment" or "order" is meant.

"Elect" implies a vote, generally popular, though sometimes more restricted and is not synonymous with "appoint," or other modes of filling positions.

"Marital" is properly applied only to the husband's relation, while "matrimonial" may be used respecting him or the wife, or the marriage relation generally.

"Accused" is more appropriate than "defendant," in speaking of one charged with an offence, in that it implies a criminal case.

A decision may "conflict" with a decision of a co-ordinate or independent court, but cannot "over-rule" it.

Property is not divided "between" several persons, but "among" them.

An offer to do an act is a "proposal," not a "proposition."

Money is "lent," not "loaned."

An utterance by word of mouth is "oral," while anything written or spoken in words is "verbal."

"Plead" is improperly used in the past tense.

"Relative" is better than "relation" in speaking of one's kindred.

"Number" is not synonymous with "several."

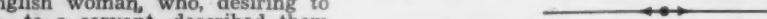
Confusion of the little words "or" and "and" in statutes and contracts has furnished the basis of many legal controversies.

In statements of facts on appeal, identity of the parties is frequently obscured by referring to appellant in one place as appellant, in another as plaintiff; to respondent as defendant, or accused, or Jones, or whatever his surname may be.

The chief evils of Tautology and his half-brother, Prolixity, lie in the lengthening of sentences, and the consequent tendency to obscure the idea intended to be conveyed. As Southey says: "If you would be pungent, be brief; for it is with words, as with sunbeams, the more they are condensed, the deeper they burn." And as another has said: "He that uses many words in explaining a subject doth like the cuttle-fish hide himself for the most part in his own ink."

The following are very common examples of prolixity, to be found in briefs and judicial opinions:

"Notwithstanding the fact" for "though." "Guilty of negligence" for "negligent." "In pursuance of the provisions of" for "under." "A man by the name of" for "a man named." "A contract for the construction of" for "a contract to construct." "For the purpose of" for "to." "By reason of which" for "whereby." "By reason of the fact that" for "because" or "since."—Canadian Times, through "The Justice of the Peace."



## A LITTLE NONSENSE

Overheard (so I'm told) in a chemist's shop.

"I want some consecrated lie," said the customer.

"You mean concentrated lye."

"It does nutmeg any difference. That's what I camphor. How much does it sulphur?"

"Tenpence. Bright fellow, aren't you? I never cinnamon with so much wit."

"Well, I should myrrh-myrrh! As yet ammonia beginner at it."

—Doug Easom.

With acknowledgments to "The News," Adelaide.

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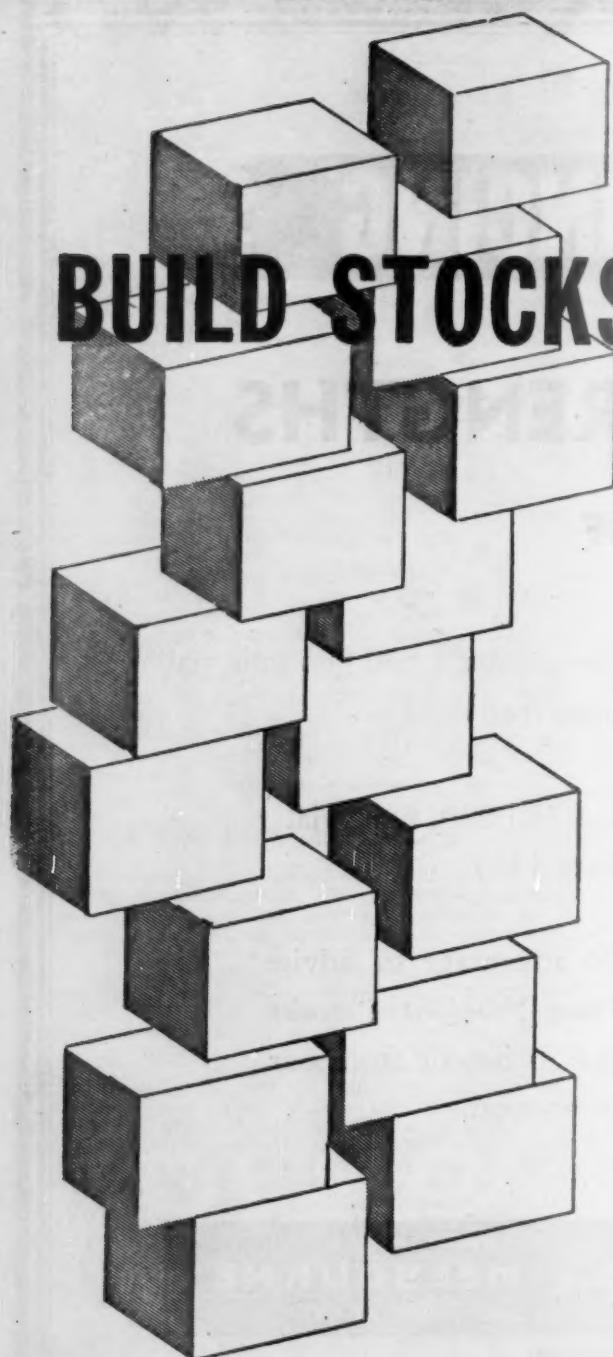
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# The Women's Section

Correspondent: Miss A. K. Anderson.

As the temperature falls lower and lower in the South, we all think with envy of our more fortunate friends in Queensland. I find it difficult to believe one fortunate pharmacist holidaying in the North, who writes of surfing in May!

## THE WOMEN PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.

The 20th annual meeting of our Association was held at the College of Pharmacy on May 6, when the President, Miss Caird, welcomed those present, and read a letter of good wishes for the meeting from our Vice-President, Mrs. Thompson, who is en route to England.

The President, in her address, said this had been a momentous year for all women in pharmacy in Australia, owing to the formation of the Australian Federation of Women Pharmaceutical Chemists at the conference in Sydney. Victoria was very proud that Miss Smalley had been elected as the first President, and Miss MacGillivray as Hon. Secretary.

Miss Caird spoke of the Queen's visit, and told of the luncheon given for Her Majesty, which she attended as our representative. In concluding her address, the President thanked the Committee, especially the Hon. Secretary, Miss Anderson, and the Treasurer, Miss MacGillivray, for their help and support during the year. She also thanked Miss Kelly for organising the "Headache Bar" in the National Council of Women's Review, and "Royco" for setting up the bar for us.

In her report the Hon. Secretary (Miss Anderson) gave an account of the year's activities of the Association, and Miss MacGillivray, the Treasurer, presented a satisfactory balance-sheet.

The report of the National Council of Women's meetings prepared by Mrs. Moorehead was read by Miss Kelly.

The motion to amend the name of our Association to "The Women Pharmaceutical Chemists' Association of Victoria" was carried unanimously by the meeting.

The Election of Office-bearers for 1954-55 then took place, and resulted in the following being elected:

**President:** Miss J. M. Caird.

**Vice-Presidents:** Mrs. I. J. Thompson, Miss F. Smalley.

**Hon. Secretary:** Miss A. K. Anderson.

**Assistant Secretary:** Miss N. Cornu.

**Treasurer:** Miss MacGillivray.

**Committee:** Mrs. Carter, Misses Maskell, Kelly, Keogh, G. Donaldson and Murrell.

Miss MacGillivray then announced that she had tickets for a theatre party to "Dear Charles" at the Comedy Theatre on May 27.

The meeting concluded with supper served in the Museum by the Committee.

## THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN PHARMACISTS OF QUEENSLAND.

On April 12, our newly elected Committee met at Miss Everett's pharmacy to draw up a programme for the ensuing twelve months. We hope that members will be able to attend meetings more regularly and that associate members will take more interest in the activities of the Association. So this year we intend to concentrate on a social programme, with guest speakers at most of our meetings.

Our President, Mrs. Roush, was happy to welcome a large number of members and associates to the April meeting, held in the Rooms of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland, on April 22.

Mrs. Roush and Mrs. Grant, a past president of the Association, entertained Miss Zena Edwards, a past secretary, to morning tea on March 31, and made a presentation to her in honour of her approaching marriage. As wedding bells will soon be ringing for Miss Dawn Lauder, Mrs. Grant-Taylor made a presentation to Dawn, on behalf of the Association, at the meeting.

The business meeting closed at 8.15 p.m., after which we enjoyed films kindly shown by Mr. Roush—one on "Atomic Energy," followed by the film of 1953 Davis Cup. As none of us were fortunate enough to be in Melbourne to witness the great match, we welcomed the opportunity to see some of the play on the screen, and heartily endorsed the vote of thanks proposed by Miss Rowland to Mr. Roush, who had spared no effort to bring the film to us. Supper was served by our social hostess, Miss Everett.

## WEST AUSTRALIAN WOMEN PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting was held at the Pharmacy Lecture Room, Technical College, Perth, on March 9, 1954, when Mrs. Lucraft presented the annual report.

The election of officers resulted as follow:

**President:** Miss E. Gray

**Vice-President:** Miss E. Harris.

**Secretary:** Miss G. Anderson.

**Assistant Secretary:** Miss M. Smedley.

**Treasurer:** Miss E. Millar.

**Committee:** Mesdames J. Bullock, G. Lucraft, Miss M. Richards, Mrs. H. M. Lyons, Miss V. Garcia (Life Members),

**Associates:** 1st Year, Bernice Eggleston; 3rd Year, Janet Firth; 4th Year, Brenda Cleave.

The programme for the year promises to be most interesting. A display of Filipino Arts and Crafts, a lecture by Professor Ida Mann and a talk on Cosmetics by Mrs. Usherwood have been arranged.

The social programme had a splendid beginning with its barbecue, held at Miss Mary Richards' cottage at



L. to R.: Mr. Skehan, Miss Richards, Mrs. Skehan, Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, Mesdames Hallo, Adlard, Allan, Miss Gray and Mr. Allan.

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Greenmount, on May 2, when the Association entertained officials of the Pharmaceutical Council and Guild with their wives at this lovely spot in the Darling Ranges.



L. to R.: Mesdames T. D. H. Allan, H. S. Lucraft and G. H. Dallimore.

Our Vice-President, Miss E. Harris, on behalf of the President and Committee, will be pleased to hear from any woman pharmacist visiting Perth. Miss Harris' phone number is WM 3380.

—EDITH ADLARD, Hon. Recorder.

### THE WOMEN PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A general meeting was held on May 4, in the Y.W.C.A. Board Room. There were seventeen members present, and three associates. We were pleased to welcome Miss E. Kayser to our Association.

A short business session was held at 7.45 p.m.

Miss E. Storey was elected Auditor for the Association.

Delegates and proxies for the National Council of Women were elected as follow:—

Delegates: Mrs. L. J. Maloney and Mrs. H. B. Morrow.  
Proxies: Miss K. Lynas and Miss E. Kayser.

At 8.30 p.m., Mr. John Miles, of News Ltd., arrived and proceeded to give his personal account of the Royal Tour in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. It was fascinating to receive a personal account of the functions attended by Her Majesty in those States, and also to hear of the trials and tribulations in the lives of the journalists accompanying the Royal tour. Mr. Miles also stressed the fact that no matter how tired they were, or how many times they had seen the Queen, it was still a thrill to see her again. Many times Mr. Miles said to himself, "I shan't bother to go to that function," but when the time came he went as enthusiastically as he did to the landing at Sydney.

All members enjoyed Mr. Miles' talk very much, and they fired many questions at him.

At the conclusion, Miss K. Lynas proposed a vote of thanks, and then supper was served.

The next committee meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. K. V. Read, on June 3.

The next general meeting will be held in the Y.W.C.A. Board Room on Tuesday, July 6, at 7.45 p.m. The speaker at the July meeting will be Miss Barbara Pitt, Superintendent of the Brighton Babies' Home.

One of our members, Miss J. Bulman, formerly of Tasmania, will be leaving for London later this month. She takes the good wishes of the Committee and members, and promises to write to us from time to time.

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## New Books

### PHARMACEUTICAL EMULSIONS AND EMULSIFYING AGENTS (SECOND EDITION).

By J. M. Spalton, B.Phar., M.P.S.

This small volume may prove to be one of the most useful of the C. & D. Series. The extremely practical approach to the problem of the preparation of pharmaceutical emulsions makes it a valuable reference for the student in preparation for examinations and for the pharmaceutical chemist in practice. Description of the materials used, clarification of terms employed, nomenclature in use by manufacturers, and the source and availability of many commercial emulsifiers are all clearly set out and conveniently indexed.

While the book adds little to our ideas on the theory of emulsification, the nature of emulsifying agents is very convincingly expressed. The relation of many new emulsifying agents to older materials is clearly shown and in fact it becomes evident that some of the most popular present-day emulsifiers are largely refinements of materials well-known to earlier generations of dispensers. Emulsifying agents are shown to possess molecular structures with both hydrophilic and hydrophobic tendencies, and the way in which these properties may be balanced or altered is clearly explained. This manipulation of molecular balance by the "synthetic chemist" gives the key to the behaviour of many emulsifiers in general use and provides essential information for the selection and formulation of a wide range of materials.

Details of the method of use of the commonly used emulsifiers is given, together with suitable formulae. Temperature requirements, proportions used, and order of mixing are fully discussed. It is interesting to read that "polawax" preparations are best prepared at about 85 deg., and in fact the texture of the product is noticeably improved when made at such a temperature instead of the rather lower temperature generally used for emulsifying wax creams.

The modern conception of incompatibility due to the combination of Cationic materials with Anionic substances is dealt with in some detail. While this subject is of general application it is particularly important in the preparation of emulsions and creams where the incompatibility may exist between agents used as emulsifiers, or between the emulsifier and an added ingredient, as for example, the addition of Aminacrine Hydrochloride to an emulsifying wax cream. The author cites an example of Cetrimide prescribed as a cationic emulsifier and bactericide with an anionic emulsifier (emulsifying wax) and suggests replacement of the emulsifying wax with cetyl alcohol. A more common solution might be the replacement of the emulsifying wax with a non-ionic emulsifier such as polawax. It would seem that such non-ionic emulsifying agents will have an ever-growing use in pharmaceutical practice and every chemist should become familiar with their characteristics and properties as set out in these pages.

One has the impression that the formulation of creams and lotions is considered principally from the angle of the preparation of cosmetics, where keeping properties during long storage is important. The base for a cream for immediate medicinal use may have somewhat different requirements, of which delivery of medicaments to the tissues is predominant. In many of the formulae replacement of some of the paraffin content with fixed oil will produce a more ready emulsion and give a preparation with increased properties of absorption, and in which the texture of the product may be varied to suit the particular circumstances.

The extemporaneous preparation of emulsion creams remains a province in which the art of the dispenser

may still be used with advantage. This volume may be confidently recommended as an addition to every chemist's references as a source of up-to-date information on the modern materials used for this purpose.  
—A.W.C.

## Readers' Views

To the Editor.

*These columns are open for the free discussion of any matter of general interest to Pharmacists. Letters under a nom de plume may be published, but each correspondent must furnish his name and address as an evidence of good faith. It must be distinctly understood that the opinions expressed by our correspondents are not necessarily endorsed editorially.*

### TEMPORA MUTANTUR

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Within the last few days the stock holders (formerly the shareholders) in Drug Houses of Australia Limited have received notices informing them of changes in the names of their trading companies. The old names disappear and their place is taken by the title D.H.A. with the appropriate State in which their trading company operates. Many of the older stockholders at first received a shock at what they considered a radical break with a tradition which they have been kind enough to cherish with a high regard.

The wholesale drug trade of this country has, since its very foundations, been developed by several families whose names are well known in their respective States and is served today by the successors—even to the third and fourth generations—of the pioneers.

Whilst the original families developed their pharmaceutical trades in States that were at first independent Colonies and were geographically miles apart, they had several bonds in common which, although in no sense legal or contractual, were bonds of sympathy of a like nature to those that make the Empire one today. They were all served by a common centre in London, they trusted and esteemed each other, and they respected each other's territories, as do the magpies of the fields.

Now a scrapping of the old names is thought necessary and quite impersonal titles will replace the family names that have been so long known in Australian commercial history. As a privileged member of one of those families, I uphold the change, with great regret that it is necessary, but that it is necessary and desirable I have no doubt whatsoever.

Ninety years ago in an England of expanding trade Benjamin Disraeli said: "Change is inevitable in a progressive country," and to oppose the need of this change would be to deny the progress of these units which play an important part in the commerce of this country.

It is a minor act in the federation of our country, and it is a clear indication of the nationhood that our country is rapidly achieving.

Personal likes and traditional vanities cannot oppose progress. Milestones of change must be passed—albeit with great regret—in a progress that is measured by many years. Some of the D.H.A. trading houses have achieved their centenaries, others are approaching them. So let us be happy about a milestone that closes one era but certainly opens another. Any change should mean that we are wiser today than we were yesterday.

Yours, etc.,  
RUSSELL GRIMWADE.

Melbourne,  
May 10, 1954.

## TERRAMYCIN SUSPENSION AS PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFIT

Sir.—The Commonwealth Health Department appears to have exceeded the provisions of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act in listing Terramycin Suspension as a Benefit. This product is available in the form of a dry powder contained in a wide-mouth bottle. Before issue the pharmacist is required to add distilled water, secundum artem, to produce a 1-oz. mixture. Thus a compounding is prepared for which no fee is payable.

Extension of the number of this form of Benefit would mean that we would be at serious financial loss: since by adding to the list of Benefits, e.g. Powdered Sulpha Drugs admixed for suspension, we would entirely forfeit our right to any compounding fee at all.

Terramycin Suspension could easily be cited as a precedent for reduction of all fees—P.M.S. and P.B.A.

The amended Act contains a clause whereby a doctor may not prescribe a benefit in a form not defined by the Act. The action of a physician in prescribing Terramycin Suspension in the liquefied form, or of a pharmacist supplying it in a liquefied form, is illegal, as is presumably the action of the Director-General of Health in including it in the list of Benefits, since it is intended to be administered in the liquid state as prepared in the pharmacy.

Any regulation to legalise this position will require a full emulsion dispensing fee to be paid to the dispenser.  
—Yours, etc.,

SYDNEY HULL.

Glen Iris (Vic.),  
May 17, 1954.

[Federal Office of the Guild advises that when Terramycin Oral Suspension was listed as a Pharmaceutical Benefit only limited supplies of the product were available. The agents of the manufacturer now advise that stocks are freely available.—Ed.]

## Legal

### MEDICAL PRACTITIONER CHARGED UNDER PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS ACT

#### Case Fails.

Two charges of having contravened the provisions of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act were brought against Dr. George Boyd, Logan Road, Upper Mt. Gravatt, in the Brisbane Court, on April 29.

Dr. G. Gravatt pleaded not guilty to charges of having between August 13 and 20, 1953, obtained 200 tablets of sulphadiazine to which he was not entitled. In evidence it was alleged that the doctor had obtained 200 of the tablets after writing out a prescription for a patient. It was stated that the patient had signed the back of the prescription and Dr. Boyd had collected the tablets himself.

A second charge alleged that Dr. Boyd, after making out a prescription in the name of another patient for 200 tablets, signed the patient's name himself and collected the tablets.

It was contended by Mr. W. B. Campbell, counsel for Dr. Boyd, that the charges had not been proved and that Dr. Boyd, like everyone else in Australia, was entitled to benefits under the Act. The Magistrate, Mr. A. E. George, S.M., said he was of the opinion that the charges had not been sustained for the reasons put forward by Mr. Campbell. He therefore dismissed the complaints.

Mr. George said the question whether or not the defendant could be successfully prosecuted for some

other breach of the Act or Regulations was not a matter for that court.

## VICTORIAN PROSECUTIONS

Mr. J. M. Daly, pharmaceutical chemist, Ormond, appeared in the Caulfield Court on May 6 on several charges relating to breaches of Dangerous Drugs Regulations.

For failing to endorse a prescription as required by Regulation 77 (h) of the Pharmacy Regulations, a fine of £20 was imposed.

Omitting to indicate the balance of each Dangerous Drug in stock in a Dangerous Drugs Register, brought a fine of £20.

A fine of £20 was imposed for omitting to cancel prescriptions for Dangerous Drugs.

On a charge of failure to keep Dangerous Drugs locked up apart from other drugs, the court inflicted a fine of £50, and a similar penalty was imposed for failure to enter transactions in the Dangerous Drugs Register as required by the Regulations.

Costs amounting to £17/13/6 were allowed.

The charges were brought by the Pharmacy Board and evidence regarding the breaches was given by Sen. Det. Ritchie of the Drug Bureau.

In announcing the decision of the court, Mr. Pyvis, S.M., said he regarded the offences as serious. Whilst there might be some slight excuse for omitting to keep Dangerous Drugs locked up during alterations at the pharmacy, he failed to see that they could not have been kept in some secure, if temporary, locked place. There was no excuse for failing to record transactions in the Dangerous Drugs Register.

In the Benalla Court on May 20, Reginald Berchmans Cummins, pharmaceutical chemist, was fined £75 with costs on seven charges relating to breaches of the Dangerous Drugs Regulations and the Pharmacy Regulations.

The Pharmacy Board prosecuted and evidence regarding the infringements was given by Sen. Det. Ritchie, of the Drug Bureau. The charges were as follows:

1. Failing to stamp, mark or inscribe a prescription for a Specified Drug (phenobarbital) with the word "cancelled."

2. Supplying a Dangerous Drug otherwise than in accordance with the Regulations.

3. Failing to keep a record in a Dangerous Drugs Register clearly indicating the balance of each form of Dangerous Drug in stock.

4. Failure to record all transactions in connection with Dangerous Drugs contrary to Regulation 22 (1) (a).

5. Failure to store all Dangerous Drugs apart from other goods.

6. Failure to produce a document, to wit, a prescription for Pethidine which had been dispensed, upon demand by a member of the Police Force.

7. Failure to stamp or endorse a prescription after dispensing contrary to Regulation 77 (h) of the Pharmacy Regulations, 1930.

## ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF COCAINE

Fine of £75.

Keith Kitchener Hull, described by a police officer as "a man who had been charged with nearly every offence in the Statutes," was proceeded against in the Cairns (Queensland) Police Court on April 29, for having had in his possession on April 19 Dangerous Drugs—a phial containing twelve tablets of Cocaine Hydrochloride.

Hull denied the charge, but was found guilty and fined £75 with £15/8/6.

Speaking on his own behalf at the conclusion of the case, Hull, who is a Melbourne man, alleged that he had been "framed."

*This Sheet is Perforated to Facilitate Removal for Reference.*

## GUIDE TO NEW PRESCRIPTION PROPRIETARIES

*Our aim in presenting these references is to give a summary in regard to each product, rather than all the information available in the manufacturers' literature. Their mention in these columns does not imply editorial recommendation. Prices are no longer quoted because of frequent fluctuations.*

### STREPTAQUAINE

Supplier: The Distillers Company (Biochemicals) Ltd., Liverpool, England.  
Composition: Stabilised aqueous solution of 1 mega unit (250,000 i.u. per ml) streptomycin sulphate.  
Indications: In streptomycin sensitive infections.  
Pack: Injection-type vials, boxes of five.

### CORTOMYCIN Ophthalmic Ointment

Supplier: Andrew's Laboratories, 15 Hamilton Street, Sydney.  
Composition: Each gramme contains Cortisone acetate 15 mgm., neomycin sulphate 5 mgm.  
Indications: Inflammatory conditions of the eye.  
Pack:  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. (3.5 Gm.) tubes with applicator tip.

### ACETOBARB

Supplier: Ethicals (Vic.) Ltd.  
Composition: Tablets containing aspirin gr. 5 and phenobarbitone gr.  $\frac{1}{4}$  or gr.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
Indications: Analgesic and sedative.  
Dosage: One or two tablets as directed.  
Pack: Bottles of 100 tablets.

### CERUMOL

Supplier: Laboratories for Applied Biology Ltd., London, through Salmon & Spraggon (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.  
Composition: Active constituents per 100 c.c., Dichlorobenzene B.P.C. 2 gm., Chlorbutol B.P. 5 gm., Ol. Terebinth B.P. 40 c.c., Benzocaine 2 gm.  
Indications: Cerumol is a clear, oily, non-irritating anti-bacterial preparation which has been found to be a safe and efficient agent for the removal of wax from the external auditory meatus which obviates the syringing of ears under pressure. Contra-indications: Otitis Externa, Seborrhoeic dermatitis, and eczema affecting the external ear.  
Dosage: Five drops to be instilled in the ear for 10-30 minutes depending upon the degree of hardness of the cerumen.  
Pack: Bottles containing 10 c.c. and 2 oz.

### SEDATA TABS

Supplier: Sigma Company Ltd., Melbourne.  
Composition: Each tablet contains Carbromal B.P.C. gr. 1.3, Bromvaletone B.P.C. gr. 1, Acetylsalicylic Acid gr. 2.6, Magnesium Carbonate gr. 1.3.  
Indications: Sedative and analgesic.  
Dosage: Adults: Sedative, 1 or 2 tablets three times daily after meals. Insomnia, 2 to 4 tablets with hot milk at bedtime. If patient awakes in 4-6 hours, repeat dose. Children: According to age.  
Pack: Bottles of 35 tablets.

### NIVEMBIN

Supplier: May & Baker Ltd.  
Composition: Each tablet contains chloroquine sulphate 65 mg. (equiv. to 50 mg. base) and di-iodohydroxyquinoline 300 mg.  
Indications: For treatment of amoebiasis and the combined prevention of amoebiasis and malaria for short-term visitors to endemic areas of these diseases.  
Dosage: Treatment of amoebiasis: Two tablets three times daily for one to three weeks, depending on the severity of the case.  
Prevention of amoebiasis and malaria: One to three tablets daily, depending on circumstances.  
Pack: Containers of 50 and 500 tablets.  
Notes: "Nivembin" is not yet on the Australian market.

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## GUIDE TO NEW PRESCRIPTION PROPRIETARIES (Continued)

### PLEXONAL.

Supplier:  
Composition:

Sandoz Products Limited, London.  
Each tablet contains 45 mg. barbitone sodium, 15 mg. phenobarbitone sodium, 25 mg. sodium isobutylallyl-barbiturate, 0.08 mg. hyoscine hydrochloride, 0.16 mg. dihydroergotamine methanesulphonate.

Hypnotic and sedative.

Dosage: One to three tablets as required.

Pack: Tubes of 20 and 200 tablets.

### CODIS

Supplier:

Composition:

Reckitt & Colman (Australia) Ltd. (Pharmaceutical Division) Sydney.

Each tablet contains Acid Acetylsalicyl. B.P. 4 grs., Phenacet. B.P. 4 grs., Codein. Phosph. B.P. 0.125 grs., Calc. Carb. B.P. 1.2 grs., Acid. Cit. B.P. (Exsic) 0.4 grs., Excip ad. 11.45 grs.

Analgesic.

Adult: 1 or 2 tablets four-hourly.

Prescription box of 100 tablets in 10 distinctive gold foils of 10 tablets each; 16 tablets in 4 distinctive gold foils; hospital pack of 200 tablets.

In "Codis" the aspirin is rendered soluble.

### COTUSSATE (D.H.A.)

Supplier:

Composition:

Indications:

Dosage:

Elliotts & Australian Drug Pty. Ltd., Sydney.  
Tablets containing dihydro-Codeinone bitartrate.

Cough sedative.

One or two tablets three or four times a day if necessary is the dose usually effective for adults. It is always advisable to direct that the doses be taken immediately after meals, as nausea and vertigo have been observed in some patients when the drug has been given on an empty stomach.

Tablets (gr. 1/13), bottles of 25 and 100.

Pack:

### CYTACON LIQUID

Supplier:

Composition:

Indications:

Dosage:

Glaxo Laboratories (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.

Each drachm of flavoured mixture contains 25 micrograms vitamin B12.

As a tonic in children to stimulate appetite, increase weight and in convalescence.

One or two teaspoonfuls three times a day, depending on age of child. For adults the dose may be increased. Cytacon Liquid is not suitable for treatment of pernicious anaemia.

Bottles of 6 fl. oz.

Pack:

### CYCLOSPASMOL (Brocades)

Supplier:

Composition:

Indications:

Dosage:

Andrew's Laboratories, Sydney.

Amygdalas 3.5.5-trimethyl cyclohexanol.

Burger's Disease, intermittent claudication, Raynaud's Disease, etc.

In mild cases 20-40 mg. three times daily. If the desired result is not obtained, the dosage may be increased to 100 mg. three times daily without ill effects.

In severe cases a maximal therapeutic benefit will be obtained by a dose of 2-6 tablets of 100 mg. daily. Toxicity being extremely low, the dosage may be increased to 1000 mg. if necessary. In Burger's Disease and Raynaud's Disease it is often required to continue the treatment for some months before a definite improvement is shown.

A feeling of warmth and/or tingling after taking the tablets can be avoided by reducing the dose.

Sugar-coated tablets (20 mg.) bottles of 50.

Pack:

### PHENERGAN CREAM

Supplier:

Composition:

Indications:

Pack:

May & Baker Ltd.

Cream containing 2% w/w promethazine base and 0.15% w/w dibromopropamide isethionate.

Allergic skin conditions, etc.

Tubes of 1 oz.

A Special Card Service dealing with Prescription Proprietaries is now available.  
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HOBART: H. GROUNDS, 4 Victoria  
Street. Hobart 3511.

BRISBANE: L. W. D. ROCHAIX & CO.,  
90-92 Eagle Street. BO 677.

## Student Activities

### VICTORIAN PHARMACY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Victorian Pharmacy Students' Association were invited to be present on May 10, at Union House, University of Melbourne, to witness the presentation of Final Examination and Fellowship Certificates. Eight members were also present, acting as ushers.

Owing to the absence of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria (Mr. I. J. Thompson) and the Vice-President (Mr. E. Scott), Mr. L. Long deputised as Chairman. Mr. Long introduced the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, Sir Owen Dixon, who gave the address. Final Examination Diplomas were presented to the successful candidates by the President of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria (Mr. H. A. Braithwaite), and the Fellowship Certificates were presented by the Chairman. A vote of thanks to Sir Owen Dixon was moved by Dr. B. L. Stanton, and seconded by Mr. S. J. Baird. After the presentations supper was served in the Upper Hall.

Of particular interest to the Students' Council representatives present, was the receiving of a Fellowship Certificate by Jean Elder, a former officer of the Association and N.U.P.S.A. representative.

A social club has been formed under the name of the Pharmacy Students' Social Club, commonly called P.S.S.C.—members of the Students' Representative Council forming the committee. The first meeting was a dance held at the College on May 14, the last day of first term.

Although the dance began slowly, owing to the lateness of the band and many students, it soon got well under way. The excellent music was provided by Graeme Bell. Approximately thirty students from each year danced to their heart's content. It was a very enjoyable night, especially for those who had had an exam. that day. It is hoped to hold many more similar dances at the College in the near future.

Arrangements are now being made for the popular annual week-end at St. Margaret's, Healesville, on the Queen's Birthday week-end. About fifty students are going to forget past and future exams. at Healesville, playing tennis and golf.

Third year students are at present studying for the Botany Examinations in June. There have been several discussion nights, when keen students have got together to study various flowers and leaves. These students are hoping for good results after their hard work—D. Christian.

### SYDNEY UNIVERSITY PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Association on April 24, Mr. David Lowrey was elected President, taking office from Mr. Warwick Wilkinson, who had ably held the position for the previous twelve months. The Secretary's report presented by Mr. Leo Doyle described the many social and academic activities undertaken since April, 1953. An address by the retiring President then followed. Members and visitors were extremely edified by the words of Mr. Wilkinson, who urged young pharmacists to adopt the highest ideals. As the best was taught to them during their academic years, so should they give their best in the service of their chosen profession, and more particularly in the service of their fellow men.

Mr. Keith Attiwill, visitor at the Association's annual meeting, was formally welcomed by the new President, and invited to speak to the meeting. After a few words from Mr. Attiwill, a further report from the delegates

to N.U.P.S.A. annual Council meeting in January was presented by Mr. Geoff Lauro, after which films were shown.

The meeting concluded, and supper was served to members and visitors by the staff of the Pharmacy Department and the retiring committee. Other Executive members of the 1954 Committee are:

**Vice-Presidents:** Miss M. Frith and Mr. F. Smith.

**Hon. Secretary:** Miss Judith Hale.

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. R. Betos.

The new Committee has already met and elected further officers, arranged a picnic for end-of-term week, and organised student participation in Commemoration Day celebrations at the University.

The minutes of N.U.P.S.A. Council meetings are to be ratified at the next meeting of S.U.P.A. during the Lent term vacation.

### ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY PHARMACY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

The new committee has now arranged, after much discussion, the dates for the three main functions of the pharmacy students' year—

The Pharmacy Ball—June 26.

The Pharmacy Picnic—July 18.

The Pharmacy Dinner—August 3.

All A.U.P.S.A. members are thus given plenty of notice of these events, and no excuses will be accepted for those not present.

Our first social function will be an informal dance, which will be held in the George Murray Hall at the University on May 21.

There have been several committee meetings, and the business has included ratifying the N.U.P.S.A. Congress reports. The ball planning has already commenced with the two bands and compere being booked. Also several floor shows are under inspection, to see which is suitable. We would like to invite any Victorian or other Interstate students to Adelaide for the week-end of the ball, and we can assure them of a very hectic and extremely enjoyable time as the guests of A.U.P.S.A.

This year pharmacy students have again begun to take an active part in University sports. In baseball we have representatives in every team, while the Secretary of the club, as well as being an "A" grade player, is second-year student Brian Cawte. In football we have a large group of players who, for various reasons, do not always win. In the ladies' sports we have in the basketball teams two "second years" starring with record scores, while the second-year rep. is very handy with the hockey stick.

The planning for the N.U.P.S.A. conference in January is well under way, and many interesting and new ideas are being planned for the large influx of Interstate students, but accommodation is limited to approximately 100.

The N.U.P.S.A. questionnaire has been distributed, and some very revealing replies have been received.

The "Tincture Press," our monthly magazine, has started to move out of its "cocoon" due to hormone treatment, and in the months ahead will become the most outstanding pharmacy student magazine in Australia! Also A.U.P.S.A. is out to show Interstate pharmacy students that it is the premier pharmacy students' association in Australia. Do we get a bite from Victoria?

### W.A.P.S.A. NOTES.

Again W.A. makes its appearance in the Students' Notes, after a silence of nearly six months. However, we have been very active during this time, and several changes have taken place. Bob Boylen resigned from the position of Secretary of the Association in September, and Colin Kennedy took over until the annual general meeting on March 25. At this meeting the fol-

lowing office-bearers and committee for 1954 were elected:

**President:** 4th year, Colin Kennedy.

**Vice-President:** Bruce Maywood.

**Sec. Treas.:** 3rd year, Pat Roberts, Rob Robinson; 1st year, Bernice Eggleston, Ted Rear.

Two second-year representatives will be elected on their return from National Service Training.

After the November exams, last year we celebrated with a barbecue, held at Laura Einiovici's home in Floreat Park. This was very successful and, for a change, we made a profit!

In December students met at Scarborough Beach one afternoon. Was it true that several members got lost on the way there?

In January we spent a day playing tennis. Although the attendance was not as good as expected, a hard day's tennis was enjoyed by all. We needed a week at work to recover.

At the beginning of May a special general meeting was called to discuss the contentious question of compulsory membership. We are hoping for a better attendance by second-year students, who were conspicuous by their absence from the last meeting.

We are proud to have amongst our students several who are prominent in various fields of sport. This time we extend our hearty congratulations to Gerry Hubbard, a first-year student, who brought home the "award of The Crossed Bones." He won the Australian sculling championship in Hobart last month.

Second year students have returned to College, and they elected Rosemary Fowler and Cyril Lane to represent them on the Committee. These two are very keen. It's good to have such an enthusiastic committee.

The picnic to Darlington on May 9 turned out as all good picnics should. Twenty-five "bods" went up by bus, and about ten by car. The weather was perfect, and several hardy types even went swimming. It was freezing! The Association has purchased a baseball bat and softball, and these were used to full advantage.

In June, we hope to have a lecture on "Infant Diseases and Symptoms" by a leading doctor. This should be a great help to those would-be-chemists who don't know one spot from another.

On or about July 4, the football-picnic to Yanchep is to be held. Also in July is the pharmacy ball. We are hoping to book a number of tickets for students, so if you want to be with the mob, see your class rep. early. Bookings are limited.

At the end of next term, probably on August 14, we have booked the Mount Lawley Tennis Club for our annual dance. Suggestions please, for the form it will take.—Pat Roberts.

#### TASMANIAN PHARMACY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

This month the meeting of the Tasmanian Pharmacy Students' Association was held at the home of Miss Margaret Harris, on the eastern shore of the Derwent, and a large attendance was a pleasing feature.

The first business was the filling in of the N.U.P.S.A. survey.

A discussion was started on the ways and means of getting more students to attend the monthly Society meetings, and the students as a whole were asked for suggestions as to the type of programme they would prefer the Society to arrange. We hope that body will get more support from the students in the near future. A most interesting and informative talk on poisons was given by the guest speaker, Dr. P. Pitney, who was later thanked by the president, Mr. I. McIntosh, for giving up an evening to come and lecture to us. Finally, the meeting was given an excellent supper by the hostess, and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

With the approach of mid-year exams for the Intermediate (old syllabus), apprentices, including the Pre-

sident and Secretary of the Association, are becoming worried, and are going into pre-exam hibernation.

The topic is to be announced shortly for the first time, for the H. H. Pearce Essay Prize. This should give students in their third year of study something to aim for.

A bright commemoration day parade was witnessed by the population of Hobart, but no pharmacy students participated, probably more because of lack of time than lack of inspiration or enthusiasm.

National Publicity Officer, R. L. McArthur, 24 Somerset road, Glen Iris, S.E.6, Victoria.

## Overseas News

### GREAT BRITAIN

London, May 10, 1954.

#### The Society's Activities.

Greater interest is being taken in the Council election year than is usual. Eighteen candidates have come forward for the seven seats, and some change in membership must occur, as two of the retiring councillors are not seeking re-election. This is the first year in which asterisks have not been placed on the ballot paper opposite the names of retiring councillors. It is generally considered that they have lost some advantage by this deletion. The candidates who have not previously been on the Council, mostly appear to be in favour of a minimum two years' practical training for all students. The existing Regulations permit students who have passed their finals before apprenticeship, to receive one year's instruction only.

The Annual Report of the Council for 1953 has been published and will be considered by members at the annual meeting on May 19. On the financial side there was a deficit of £5945 compared with a surplus of £15,470 in the previous year. The annual retention fee was increased in January, so that it is unlikely that a deficit will occur again in the immediate future. In addition to the £12,543, specially subscribed to the Flood Relief Fund, members provided £231 more for the Benevolent Fund than in the previous year to bring the income for charitable purposes to almost £13,000. The Society's assets are valued at approximately £700,000, of which over £400,000 is earmarked for the Building Fund.

#### Modern Trends in Pharmacy.

In last month's News Letter a report was given of Sir Hugh Linstead's talk at the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association, when it met in London. Professor H. Berry also addressed the Conference, when after referring to the rapid changes in everyday life he said that the "medical revolution" had brought not only new drugs, but also new methods of treatment, new developments in surgery, new apparatus and machinery, and had accentuated the need for specialisation in both medicine and pharmacy. A knowledge of the action and uses of drugs was coming to be regarded as a specialised branch of pharmacy and he considered the recognition of physiology and pharmacology in the pharmaceutical schemes of training as the most important advance.

Discussing the trends in retail practice, he enumerated the factors which had operated in changing its character: The high duty on alcohol and the introduction of standards for galenicals; the introduction of biological standardisation; the policy of the British Pharmaceutical Codex and the National Formulary to formulate preparations; the tendency to exhibit modern drugs as standard tablets and injections; advertising; the de-



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Retail, 4/6 each.



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rances to match Goya's  
famous Perfumes.  
Wholesale, 44/- doz.  
Retail, 6/- each.



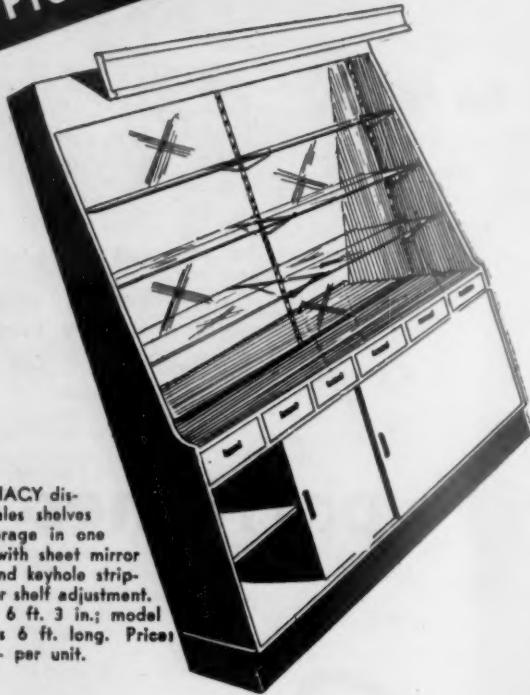
In 6 luxurious fragrances . . . Goya No. 5 . . .  
Pink Mimosa . . . Goya 21 . . . Gardenia . . .  
Great Expectations . . . Goya Heather.

perfumes  
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**Goya**

London Paris  
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Supplies obtainable from wholesalers

**Pre-fabbed Fittings**



PHARMACY display, sales shelves and storage in one unit with sheet mirror back and keyhole striping for shelf adjustment. Height, 6 ft. 3 in.; model shown is 6 ft. long. Price £39/10/- per unit.



**LEFT:**  
Stock counter with central display recess, glass top and front; 6 ft. or 8 ft. units. Counter-top display units (compacts, lipsticks, etc.) are removable, leaving flat-surfaced selling counter. £7/15/- running foot. Counter only.  
**BELow:** Sales and display shelving unit. Dimensions same as unit on left. Price, with drawers, £6 extra; without drawers, £24 per unit. With Masonite back and painted, 12/6 per running foot extra.



*Pharmacy units at streamlined prices designed to lift your impulse sales.*

All units painted or stained to requirements

Quality Fittings . . . from . . .

**J. E. BUCKRIDGE INDUSTRIES**  
**454 Chapel St., South Yarra. BJ 3314, BJ 2838**

velopment of machinery; ease of travel and communication.

If the art of pharmacy was passing from the retail field, Professor Berry continued, it was being converted into a science and was being transferred to the large laboratories, where the major problems lay, and where the most expert knowledge was demanded. The different sections of the work required specialists; synthesis by the organic chemist working in collaboration with the pharmacologist; large-scale manufacture in the charge of a pharmacist with a knowledge of the principles of engineering; assays, dosage, methods of administration and studies of action and uses in the charge of the analyst and the pharmacologist. Problems of formulation and packing required a wide knowledge and practical experience of pharmacy in order to produce a preparation which would be active, convenient in use, economic in manufacture and stable for a wide market. The relative merits of glass, rubber, metal and plastics had to be evaluated and attention given to the questions of solvents, sterilisation, bactericides, bacteriostatics and incompatibilities.

Professor Berry maintained that the hospital pharmacist was definitely becoming the adviser on drugs to the medical staff, and he must have the ability to assess the claims made for new drugs. He must be able to devise and control small-scale manufacture; and, in the teaching hospitals, the chief pharmacist should have the status of a teacher, and the opportunity for devoting time to research. Finally, Professor Berry told his audience: "You will be successful only if you can separate fundamental knowledge (on which all changes are built) from non-essentials, so that you can appreciate the value of a change."

#### Chemists' Remuneration.

It is now clear that some further enquiry will be made into the costs of maintaining a dispensing service, as the Ministry is firm in its attitude that the claim for an increased dispensing fee has not been substantiated because it rests on assumptions which have not been proved to be correct. Indeed, at one stage in the discussions the Ministry tried to make a point that the figures produced would justify a reduction and not an increase in the dispensing fee. Eventually this view was abandoned. It is now proposed that an agreed questionnaire be issued to a representative cross section of contractors (about one in twelve), and that they should produce audited accounts to support their returns. In addition selected businesses would be visited by a working party. This information has been given in an interim report issued by the Central N.H.S. Contractors' Committee which also states that a working party has been set up to examine the practicability of treating the container allowance separately from the other payments made to chemists.

Meanwhile the chemist's greatest grumble is that the payment on account has now been reduced to 70 per cent. of his estimated total for the month. The Ministry's point of view is that the overall payments should put chemists in the same position as if their accounts were paid six weeks after the end of the month in which the prescriptions were dispensed. The Pricing Offices are now overtaking arrears and consequently chemists are receiving their balances at a shorter interval than formerly. Less than a year ago the payment on account was 90 per cent. Contractors, however, cannot agree to the Ministry's view and assert that a six weeks' delay in payment involves undue financial hardship.

#### The Service in Scotland.

A report has now been issued on the National Health Service in Scotland for 1953. Prescriptions totalled 2,049,500, an increase of 106,000 on the previous year. The total cost of the pharmaceutical service was about £4,950,000. The Health Centre at Edinburgh, which was described in these notes when it opened, has a gross running cost of £13,000 a year without any allowance for the redemption of capital or the remuneration

of the nine doctors who use the Centre, and the dentist and pharmacist. Drugs are an additional charge, but the doctors pay an average of £200 each for the use of the Centre. This sum is calculated by reference to the estimated cost of practising in accommodation of a good ordinary type. The pharmacist and dentist are paid net salaries.

#### Economy in Prescribing.

In the Annual Report of the British Medical Association, published last month, it was stated that the following are among the steps which are being taken to secure further economies in prescribing:

The co-operation of the deans of medical schools, the vice-chancellors of universities, and the members of other examining bodies is being sought on the problem of training medical students in economical prescribing, and particularly newly qualified practitioners during the pre-registration period. The General Medical Service Committee is seeking an early return to the system of full pricing and area averages whereby the individual doctor is notified of the average cost of prescribing in his own area. The issue of "Prescribers' Notes" is being extended to all professors of pharmacology and therapeutics. It is already being issued to hospital medical staffs, and the introduction of notes of special interest to consultants is also envisaged. It is felt that there is a need to simplify the names of the preparations in the National Formulary, and the assistance of the National Formulary Committee is being sought to this end. The Committee has for a considerable time been urging the immediate introduction of stock orders for doctors' surgeries—a step which it is convinced would result in a substantial and early saving. In this the Committee has the full support of the Ministry, but unfortunately it has not been possible to secure the co-operation of the chemists, without whose participation the scheme cannot, of course, be operated. Every opportunity is being taken to overcome these difficulties.

#### Percolation into Ampoules.

The Court of Appeal has dismissed the appeal of two patients who were paralysed after the administration of spinal anaesthetics at a hospital in the North of England. Reference to this case, when it first appeared in the High Court, was given in the December News Letter. Then the unfortunate patients sued the Ministry of Health and Dr. Graham, the anaesthetist. In dismissing the appeal, Lord Justice Somervell said that the question was whether the percolation of phenol solution into ampoules was caused by the negligence of the defendants or either of them. Dr. Graham, who appreciated the possibility of cracks in ampoules, said that he examined each one carefully and he did not believe that he could have missed a crack. The judge accepted his evidence that he made a careful examination. The finding that the hospital authorities and Dr. Graham were not negligent was justified. The fact that something went wrong was not proof of negligence. There were obvious risks in surgical operations. In concurring Lord Justice Denning said that no one could be unmoved by the disaster to these two men. The facts called for an explanation by the hospital authorities and Dr. Graham, and they had given one.

They had spared no trouble or expense to seek out the cause of the disaster. There was a danger that ampoules might become cracked, and the cracks might be so fine that they could not be detected by ordinary inspection. The carbolic disinfectant in which the ampoules were kept would then seep through the cracks into the Nupercaine, and no one would realise that it had taken place. That was the explanation of the disaster, and the question was whether any of the staff were negligent. Medical science had conferred great benefits on mankind, but those benefits were attended by considerable risks. Every surgical operation was attended by risks. Dr. Graham sought to escape the danger of infection by disinfecting the ampoule. In

escaping that known danger he unfortunately ran into another danger. He did not know that there could be undetectable cracks, but it was not negligent for him not to know it at that time. They must not look at this 1947 accident with 1954 spectacles. The judge had acquitted Dr. Graham of negligence, and they should uphold his decision.

What happened in this case, continued Lord Justice Denning, was a most extraordinary chapter of accidents. The crack in the ampoule was too fine to be seen, but it was enough to let in sufficient phenol to corrode the nerves while still leaving enough Nupercaine to anaesthetise the patient. That very exceptional crack occurred in two ampoules, which were used on the same day in successive operations, but no other ampoule was damaged. This had taught doctors to be on their guard against invisible cracks. Never again, it was to be hoped, would such a thing happen. It was the extraordinary accident to these two men which first disclosed the danger. Nowadays it would be negligence not to realise the danger, but it was not then. The two men had suffered such terrible consequences that there was a natural feeling that they should be compensated, but a disservice would be done to the community if liability were imposed on hospitals and doctors for everything that happened to go wrong. Doctors would be led to think more of their own safety than of the good of their patients. Initiative would be stifled and confidence shaken. A proper sense of proportion gave regard to the conditions in which hospitals and doctors had to work. Due care for the patient at every point must be insisted upon, but that which was only a misadventure must not be condemned as negligence.

No order was made as to costs. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

#### Formula for Calamine Lotion.

In a paper in the Pharmaceutical Journal Mr. D. Etchells, B.Sc., F.P.S., suggests a new formula for calamine lotion which contains a wetting agent and a suspending agent. The following formula produced a fluid of thin cream-like consistency which is readily re-dispersed by shaking. On application it spreads easily, dries fairly rapidly and leaves a fine film which is well retained.

Calamine, in fine powder	15
Zinc Oxide, in fine powder	5
Sodium carboxymethylcellulose	1
Di-isopropyl-naphthalene sulphonate	0.05
Glycerin	5
Liquefied phenol	0.5
Distilled water	to 100

The sodium carboxymethylcellulose used was Cellofas B, made by Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

#### L'Entente Cordiale.

The two sides of the Franco-British Pharmaceutical Commission have been exchanging courtesies on the celebration of fifty years of the Entente Cordiale, and in addition Sir Hugh Linstead has been created Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by the French Government. The President of the Society, Mr. T. Heseltine, was presented with the Lavoisier Medal by the Ordre National des Pharmaciens, when he and Professor A. D. Macdonald made a lecture tour in France and Algiers on behalf of the Commission. At present two French speakers, Professor A. Morette and M. Ch. Ahr, are taking part in a lecture tour in Scotland, when they will talk on subjects including "Pharmaceutical Education in France," "Inspection of Pharmacies in France," "Analytical Control of Medicines" and "The Practice of Pharmacy in France."

The Commission is holding a two-day Congress at Dinard, when veterinary pharmacy will come under discussion.

#### Isotope Manufacture.

Four new laboratories for the manufacture of radioactive isotopes were opened recently at Amersham,

near London. These are the first in Britain to be specifically designed for this purpose. Among the products which will be used in pharmacy and medicine are iodine-131, phosphorus-32, gold-198, sodium-22, sulphur-35, strontium-90 and caesium-137. The scientific and technical staff will number 75 and there will be 45 industrial workers. There is a steady growth in demand for the products, particularly radioactive phosphorus and iodine. Over 200 orders for these chemicals are dealt with every week.

Radioactive carbon is also being produced and being used in biological synthesis, including work on protein metabolism. One experiment has shown that such protein fed to a hen reappears in the albumen of the egg. The Amersham plant is part of the Government plan for the development of atomic energy and in addition to the radioactive chemicals mentioned products which are sources of radiation are also produced there.

#### Using Atomic Energy.

Work continues in Britain on other commercial aspects of atomic energy. In Cumberland plutonium has been produced for the last four years, although it was not until a few days ago, on May 6, that members of the public were allowed to view the 300 acre factory at Windscale. It is hoped that by mid-1956 it will be possible to use the waste heat from the reactors to produce steam to drive turbines coupled to alternators. These in turn will be linked to the electrical grid supply for the country. It is understood that the Cumberland factory will also serve as a training ground for a commercial firms who will take over the design and construction of further nuclear power stations.

## Market Report

### LONDON MARKET REPORT.

May 10, 1954.

As the month under review has included the long Easter break, market conditions have been on the quiet side.

The rise in ginger noted four weeks ago has been halted. African, old crop, is being sold at 160/- per cwt. on the spot, with new crop around 18/-, c.i.f. Jamaican is worth 230/- on the spot for No. 3.

Among the other spices, Zanzibar cloves are fractionally lower at 4/6 per lb. against 4/2, c.i.f.

Cardamoms also are easier, with Aleppi greens quoted at 15/3 to 15/6 per lb. for immediate delivery.

Turmeric, however, has gone up to 155/- per cwt. for good Madras finger.

Mombasa chillies are steady at 300/- per cwt.

In the pharmaceutical gums, karaya has risen to 265/- per cwt. for No. 1 gum following reports of a poor crop in India.

Acacia is firmer at 135/- per cwt., for clean Kordofan sorts, and material afloat is quoted at 123/- per cwt.

Tragacanth prices have been eased slightly; current rates per cwt. are: First quality, select ribbon, £107-£110; second quality, £85-£90; third quality, £70-£75; fourth quality, £48-£52. Other rates are: Pale to yellow, £38-£40; yellow - leaf, £24-£26; brownish, £14-£18; "hoggy," £10-£13 and siftings, £8-£10.

Myrrh also is cheaper; good Aden sorts are £14 per cwt., with ordinary sorts at £11-£12.

Some buchu leaves have reached London and have been sold at 2/6 per lb. There are no shipment offers from the Cape, so it appears likely that stocks will be exhausted long before the next crop becomes available.

Senega is worth about 16/6 per lb. and new crop is quoted at 15/3 per lb., for July-August shipment.

Ipecacuanha remains very scarce at unaltered prices.



## Greater Profits on Every Sale of **BAYER'S ASPIRIN** TABLETS

Generous Discounts for quantity parcels.  
Nationally advertised — Press and Radio.



**BAYER PHARMA PTY. LTD.**

56 Young Street, Sydney

Distributors: Fossett & Johnson Ltd.,  
38-40 Chalmers St., Sydney.

6375



# KOLYNOS Dental Cream adds another plus to its selling story

## ANTI-ENZYME ACTION

### Kolynos tells ALL Australia

Every week, right through the year, our big magazine advertisements will be seen by OVER HALF THE HOMES IN AUSTRALIA.

Over 60 strategic radio stations will blanket Australia with thousands of radio spots, telling the story of Kolynos and its anti-enzyme action.

Yes, more than ever, it's going to pay you to be in with KOLYNOS. Stock and display each size, white or green, and watch your sales BOOM.

FEATURE **KOLYNOS**

—the first toothpaste in Australia with Anti-Enzyme action

#### **Anti-enzyme Protection means more Protection from Dental Decay Acids**

Dentists have long known that enzymes change normal starches and sugars into deadly tooth decay acids. Now a safe, sure way to stop the destructive action of these acids has been found in Kolynos.

Kolynos contains a special anti-enzyme which begins to neutralize tooth decay the moment you clean your teeth after a meal.

No other toothpaste offers any evidence of this extra protection!

Aconite root is in better supply at 3/2 per lb.  
Copaiba balsam is easier at 13/- per lb.

In essential oils the most interesting feature has been the continued rise in palmarosa. Spot quotations vary from 60/- to 65/- per lb. and forward from 57/6 to 62/6.

Chinese peppermint is firmer at 19/6 per lb. It is almost impossible to obtain shipment offers from Hong Kong, as the barter system there has been suspended. This has little effect on menthol, however, and duty paid material has been sold at 29/6 per lb.

Lemongrass has come down to 9/3 per lb. and 9/- c.i.f.

Hand pressed Sicilian lemon oil can be bought at 40/- per lb., which is the lowest figure for many months.

All fixed oils have now been released from the control of the Ministry of Food, but as yet price levels have not become stabilised.

The only change in chemicals has been a further increase in mercurials. The new prices per kilogramme are: Ammoniated mercury, 57/9; perchloride, lump, 52/9; perchloride, powder, 52/3; calomel, 58/9; red and yellow oxides, both 61/6. The metal has been advanced slightly to £82/10/- since these prices were issued, but as further increases may occur, manufacturers have not altered the rates for compounds.

Para-aminosalicylic acid is now in good supply and prices vary from 23/- per kg. upwards, according to quantity and dealer.

## Trade Notes

### GLAXO LABORATORIES (AUST.) PTY. LTD.

The above company announces the introduction of new potencies for three of its penicillins. The new potencies are listed as Pharmaceutical Benefits and are: Crystalline Penicillin Glaxo. Vials: 1,500,000 units (P.B.A. Item 139). Trade Price: 5/9 per vial. Mylipen (Procaine Penicillin Aqueous Suspension). Vials: 1,500,000 units (P.B.A. Item 140). Trade Price: 7/5 per vial. Seclopen (Procaine plus crystalline penicillin). Vials: 1,500,000 units (P.B.A. Item 141). Trade Price: 6/11 per vial.

### DRUG HOUSES SUBSIDIARIES.

It was announced in the daily press on May 25 that Drug Houses of Australia Ltd. had decided to make the following changes in names of subsidiary companies:

Elliotts & Australian Drug Pty. Ltd. to D.H.A. (N.S.W.) Pty. Ltd.

Felton Grimwade & Duerdins Pty. Ltd. to D.H.V. (Victoria) Pty. Ltd.

Taylor's Elliotts Pty. Ltd. to D.H.A. (Queensland) Pty. Ltd.

Elliott Taylor Pty. Ltd. to D.H.A. (Northern Rivers) Pty. Ltd.

A. M. Bickford & Sons Ltd. to D.H.A. (South Australia) Ltd.

Felton Grimwade and Bickford Pty. Ltd. to D.H.A. (Western Australia) Pty. Ltd.

L. Fairthorne & Son Pty. Ltd. to D.H.A. (Tasmania) Pty. Ltd.

### IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND LIMITED.

#### Visit of Mr. R. G. Hoare.

Mr. R. G. Hoare, Deputy Overseas Sales Manager, Imperial Chemical (Pharmaceuticals) Ltd., Manchester, England, recently arrived in Australia via the U.S.A., Fiji and New Zealand.

Mr. Hoare is investigating the potential markets for products manufactured by the parent company in England, and marketed by I.C.I.A.N.Z. Ltd. in Australia.

During his stay in Australia he visited all States and met a representative cross-section of the pharmaceutical trade and profession as well as hospital and manufacturing executives.

At a dinner held at Mt. Derrimut Farm, Deer Park (Vic.), on April 26, Mr. Hoare was able, informally, to meet a representative gathering of all branches of pharmacy.

Mr. Hoare left for the United Kingdom via Indonesia on May 29.

### FAULDING ANNIVERSARY.

Wednesday, May 19, marked the 109th anniversary of the foundation of F. H. Faulding & Co. Ltd. In 1845 Francis Hardey Faulding opened a retail pharmacy in Rundle Street, Adelaide, and the anniversary was celebrated by staff gatherings in Faulding Houses in every capital city of Australia.

In Adelaide, the foundation State, over 300 members of the staff met for an evening of dancing and entertainment in the spacious basement staff quarters. Mr. R. G. Scammell (Director) and grandson of the co-founder of the company, represented the Board and presented the address of welcome to the staff. Congratulatory telegrams were read from all other Faulding houses, and special applause was accorded to a cablegram of congratulations received from Mr. A. F. Scammell (Managing Director) and Mr. R. T. Patterson (Technical Director), who are at present on a business trip in America.

Another event which took place in the course of the evening was a presentation to Mr. R. B. White, by Mr. R. G. Scammell, of a gold watch in acknowledg-



Mr. R. B. White (left) receiving a presentation from Mr. R. G. Scammell.

ment of Mr. White's 50 years of service with the company. Mr. White, as the guest of honour, performed the ceremony of cutting the 109th Faulding birthday cake.

### BRIGINSHAW BROS. PTY. LTD.

Briginshaw Bros. Pty. Ltd. anticipated that the benefits of machine marking all goods in chemist shops would be considerable. But we are informed that the

variety of uses to which Brig-markers are being put has astounded the manufacturer.

To be sure that goods are being sold at the correct price; to be able to assess the value and age of stock quickly and accurately; and to have every article legibly and uniformly marked are no small achievements. By using a Brig-marker all this information is automatically printed on a gummed label which comes to you with your name and suburb already printed on it. It is possible to print four lines of information on these labels—the last line, your selling line, being in larger, heavier type.

Many chemists have already found that printing only the selling price is a tremendous advantage, but for those who wish it is possible and easy to add the season of purchase the preferential selling code and the cost as well as the selling price in bolder type.

The installation and running cost of this system is surprisingly low and well within the scope of any progressive pharmacy. With a Brig-marker you can save time, save money and gain free advertising and prestige.

#### BOOTS' STAFF APPOINTMENTS.

The following new appointments were made during May to Boots' selling staff:

**Mr. D. E. Johnson** with wide experience in the rural field, has joined the Queensland staff, to conduct the rural activities in this State.

**Mr. A. E. Bosley** has joined the Ethical Division of New South Wales.

#### Managing-Director on Visit to Head Office.

Mr. F. M. Needham and Mrs. Needham will leave by air from Sydney on June 1, en route to the United Kingdom. Mr. Needham, Managing Director of Boots



Mr. F. M. Needham.



Mrs. Needham.

Pure Drug Co. (Australia) Pty. Ltd., will discuss future activities in Australia with the parent company in England, Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd., and at the same time take the opportunity of visiting the various Boots' organisations in Malaya, India, Pakistan and the Middle East. They propose to be absent from Australia for about 3½ months.

#### VIULES PROSTABILLIN.

Boots Pure Drug Co. (Australia) Pty. Ltd. announces that despite the decrease in price in all Penicillin injectables as announced by the Commonwealth Health Department, it is the intention of this company to continue to supply its ready suspended Procaine Penicillin in the form of Viules Prostabillin A.S. 600,000 units under P.B.A. Item 140.

Supplies of the 600,000 unit will be available through all wholesalers in Australia, and it is hoped that in the very near future a 300,000 unit strength in this ready suspended Procaine Penicillin aqueous viule will be available also as a Benefit under the P.B.A.

#### EARNINGS OF BOOTS' PARENT COMPANY.

The Board of Boots Pure Drug, U.K., reports (May 26) larger group profits and is raising the final equity dividend from 10 to 12½ per cent. to make 22½ per cent. (20 per cent.) for the year to March 31, 1954.

The increase in untaxed group profits is £254,066 at £3,195,410 and the cost of the year's ordinary distribution is up from £550,400 to £633,600.

The final dividend is payable on July 14 to all ordinary shareholders who were registered May 12.

The sum of £100,000 paid to the University of Nottingham for the endowment of two Chairs (in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Chemical Engineering) has been deducted before arriving at the 1953-54 group profit.

#### CHAIR OF PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY ENDOWED BY BOOTS.

The University of Nottingham, England, has accepted the offer of Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd. to endow two new chairs in honour of Lord and Lady Trent. They are the "Lord Trent Chair of Pharmaceutical Chemistry" and the "Lady Trent Chair of Chemical Engineering" and are of a total value of £100,000.

The gift commemorates the work that Lord and Lady Trent have done both for the company and the City of Nottingham. Lord Trent was chairman of Boots Pure Drug Co. for 26 years and its active head. He resigned from his position as chairman at the end of January last and is now the company's first Honorary President. When Nottingham University College was raised to the status of a university, Lord Trent was its first Chancellor. His resignation from the office on the ground of ill-health was accepted at a meeting of the University Court on March 3.

In offering to endow a chair in pharmaceutical chemistry, the company expressed its desire to strengthen the study of pharmacy within the University and to encourage research. It felt that the establishment of such a chair in the Department of Pharmacy would be of real and lasting value.

#### VISIT TO BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO.

Sixty-three members of the Dulwich Hill (N.S.W.) and District Pharmaceutical Association recently accepted the invitation of Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (Australia) Ltd. to visit its plant at Rosebery.

As they arrived, guests were received by Mr. S. G. Brown (a director of the company), who was assisted



Mr. W. H. Mann, of B.W. & Co., explains the process of filling "Wellcome" Injection of Ergometrine Maleate into ampoules under inert gas to ensure stability of the solution.



Mr. C. M. Audley, Mr. P. Cordato, Mr. E. G. Larkin and Mr. O. C. V. Leggo photographed in the sugar coating room of B.W. & Co.'s Granulating and Compressing Department.

in this pleasant task by Mr. F. G. Helman, Sales Manager, and Mr. R. B. Tattersal, Staff Superintendent.

Parties of twelve were formed and inspections began.

The first item was a talk on the company's latest product, "Antepar." The parties then progressed to rooms where granulating powders were being made and digitalis pulp being stamped into tablet form. Members inspected sugar coating tablet machines, filling of ampoules, and saw the methods employed in packing of "Histofax" and "Tannafax." Of particular interest was the sensitive weighing machines for producing hypodermic tablets.

An enjoyable and instructive evening was highlighted (appropriately in the supper room) when members listened to the broadcast over station 2UW, of a radio interview with Mr. L. Matthews (Director of the Wellcome Foundation) in the session—"Man of the week."

Members of the Association expressed their thanks to the company for an enjoyable and instructive evening.



Some members of the Dulwich Hill and District Pharmaceutical Association assembled in the B.W. & Co. canteen for refreshments.

#### PRESCRIPTION PROPRIETARIES CARD SERVICE.

The 15 cards issued for the month of April, 1954, dealt with the following products:

B : 52	Blutene Chloride
C : 79	Cafergot (E.C. 110)
C : 80	Chilban
C : 81	Co-Elorine
E : 39	Erythrocin Ointment
H : 23	Hydrocortone Ointment 1%
M : 43	Mercloran
N : 41	Nasciodine Cream
N : 42	Tab. Novotone Co.
O : 14	Ocusol
P : 104	Pagitane Hydrochloride
P : 105	Primodian-Depot
P : 106	Provell Maleate
T : 44	Tussinol
U : 6	Ulosan

The 15 cards to be issued for the month of May, 1954, will deal with the following products:

A : 78	Androgeston
A : 79	AnsolySEN
C : 82	Cosalide (D.H.A.)
C : 83	Codral
D : 57	Diamox
D : 58	Dencorub
E : 40	Epitone
E : 41	E.S.T.P. Dusting Powder (Martindale)
E : 42	Erythrocin Oral Suspension, Pediatric
M : 44	Mysoline
P : 107	Primogyn-Depot
R : 13	Ronicol
S : 50	Schereson Ophthalmicum
S : 51	Sednine
T : 45	Trinavac

Subscriptions £3/3/- to the P.P. Card Service for 1954 may be commenced at any time and cards back to January, 1954, will be sent. Order, accompanied by cheque, should be addressed to: The Manager, "The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy," 360 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

We regret that the cards of earlier years—1951, 1952 and 1953—are now out of print.

#### SIGMA COMPANY LTD.

##### Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of shareholders in Sigma Co. Ltd. was held at 589-595 Collins street, Melbourne, on April 29, at 8 p.m.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Mr. E. C. McClelland, and on the motion of Mr. S. J. Baird, seconded by Mr. Say, the minutes of the previous annual meeting were taken as read, a full report having been published.

**Annual Report and Accounts.**—Mr. Flint moved, and Mr. K. Ramsay seconded, that the balance-sheet, profit and loss account and directors' report be taken as read.—Carried. A further motion by Mr. A. W. Callister, seconded by Mr. J. R. Oxley, that the balance-sheet, profit and loss account and directors' report be received was also carried.

The Chairman, in his address, drew attention to the form in which the balance-sheet was presented, setting out as it did in graphic form a picture of the various steps of the balance-sheet. He also drew attention to the illustration in the balance-sheet showing how the 1/3 dividend is made up, comprising as it did drugs .6d., sundries 1d., patents 1.5d., ethicals 2.5d., and Sigma proprietaries 9.4d.; emphasising that the higher the sales of the company's own products the larger the dividend that could be expected.

In commenting on the purchase of the new warehouse and offices in Collins street, he felt that the company had made a good buy, by comparison with valuations in other parts of the city. The company had sent Mr. B. Haigh and Mr. A. K. Hobbs abroad for a quick survey of warehousing and manufacturing technique, and they had come back with many ideas which would facilitate the handling of orders, invoicing and the many other functions of the warehouse. Certain sums have been allocated for research, which, it was expected, would bring in more profits in the future, and tend to consolidate the company.

In expressing the thanks of the Board and the shareholders to the management and staff, the Chairman said that their efforts had contributed in no small measure to the success of the past year's trading, and he had no doubt that the acquisition of the new warehouse would considerably ease the difficulty of present working conditions. Speaking of the allocation of profits, the Chairman drew attention to the fact that from the total nett profit for the year of £160,719, an amount of £7268 had been transferred to the general reserve, £3500 to the mortgage redemption reserve and to the staff education fund £1000, making a total of £11,768, the balance of the profit being distributed to shareholders.

He expressed the hope that by mutual co-operation and the constant pushing of the company's own proprietaries the dividend would not only be maintained, but possibly increased in the years to come.

The motion was seconded by Mr. F. N. Lee, who pointed out that with the additional space which would be available to the company when the new warehouse was taken over, the company could extend its activities into fresh fields, with a greater range of goods, and consequent progress of the company. He emphasised the necessity of shareholders taking a greater interest in promoting at every opportunity sales of both counter proprietary and prescription ethicals, the latter particularly to their friends in the medical profession. Providing, as they did, such a substantial portion of the annual dividend, it was most important, Mr. Lee said, to maintain and increase the turnover of the company's prescription proprietaries, adding that Sigma lines must remain "Chemist Only" lines by the highest possible agreement one could ever imagine, that is, control of the lines by the shareholders themselves.

The motion was supported by Mr. W. M. Say, of Benalla, who pointed out that the company was setting an example which might well be followed by individual pharmacists in providing themselves with more floor space, thus enabling them to increase their display accommodation and probably the range of goods carried. He congratulated the Directors of the Company and the staff in general for the lead they were giving over the broad field.

The motion was then put to the meeting, and carried.

**Directors.**—Dr. A. L. Cunningham was re-elected as a Director, to represent preference shareholders, and Mr. E. C. McClelland, present Chairman, was re-elected as a Director to represent ordinary shareholders.

Remuneration of the Directors was fixed on the same basis as last year, on the motion of Mr. Super, seconded by Mr. Braithwaite.

**Auditors.**—Messrs. Davey Garcia and J. G. Davis were re-elected Auditors for the ensuing year, and on the motion of Mr. Baird, seconded by Mr. Leete, their remuneration was fixed at 800 guineas per annum.

**Increase of Capital.**—The last item on the notice paper was a motion by the Chairman—

"That the capital of the Company be increased to £750,000 by the creation of £250,000 new shares of £1 each. That such additional capital should be considered part of the original capital, which shall be subject to the same provisions with reference to the payment of calls, and instalments, transfer and forfeiture, surrender and otherwise, as the shares in the original capital, and shall be issued as ordinary or

preference shares as the Directors shall, from time to time, determine."

The Chairman said that with the expansion of the Company it was necessary that they should be in a position to call for more capital when the necessity arose. He pointed out that although the purchase of the buildings could be financed, it might be necessary to have additional money for the rebuilding of offices, refitting the huge warehouse, carrying extra stock, financing extra book debts, and such expenses that would no doubt arise from the general expansion of the Company.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, and carried after some discussion.

**General.**—Official business being concluded, the meeting was thrown open for general discussion.

Mr. H. S. Pickering asked if it would be possible for a Tromax Three Syrups, preferably a 6 ounce, to be packed, and on a show of hands from those present, it appeared that there would be a market for the product.

Mr. A. Moore spoke in congratulatory terms of the switchboard attendants, the order clerks, the ethical department and credit department, and the drivers. He suggested, however, that there was room for big improvement in the Company's invoices, which were handwritten and sometimes difficult to read, particularly so far as the extensions and additions were concerned. He pointed out that he would prefer to have a typed invoice within a fortnight's time, than a handwritten one on the same day, but this did not seem to be the general opinion, insofar as promptitude of invoicing was concerned.

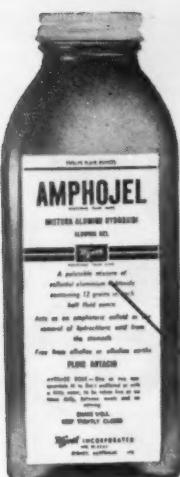
Mr. H. Braithwaite made reference to the considerable contributions to pharmacy in general through the services of Mr. Barker and Mr. Peterson, to whom time had been made available to prepare for and attend science congresses. He said that their contribution at those meetings and similar technical meetings did a considerable amount of good for the Company.

Reference was made by Mr. Hyndham to the cost of deliveries, and he inquired whether an increased delivery service would have an effect on the dividend. This and several other points were replied to by Mr. Haigh, General Manager, at a later stage.

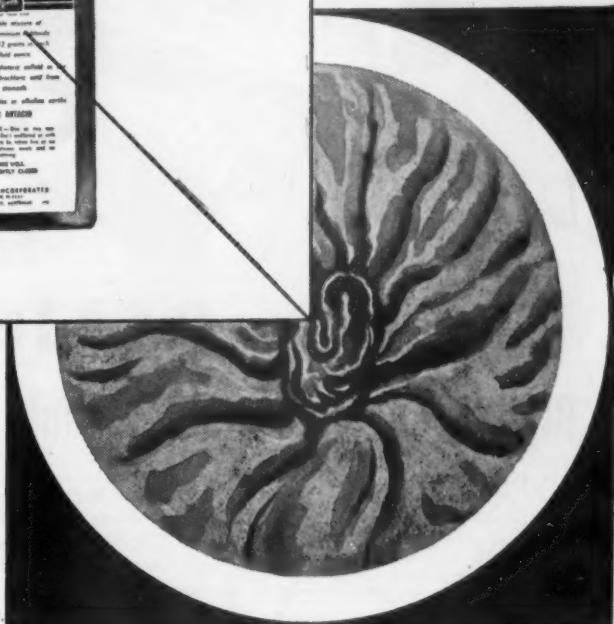
The Chairman then referred to something which he said had intrigued him, and which he thought was a move in the right direction. He referred to the necessity for the business training of young pharmacists to give them a better appreciation of business in all its aspects. Sigma Company had for some years, although not continuously, endeavoured to present a series of business lectures to the younger pharmacists particularly, and he commended Sigma Merchandising Course to all who could avail themselves of it.

In winding up the meeting, Mr. Haigh assured all shareholders present that the various points mentioned would not be overlooked, particularly the reference to invoices. He pointed out, however, that with the exception of those companies using automatic machinery for the purpose, the custom of handwritten invoices was practically universal in U.S.A., but, of course, that did not excuse them for being illegible. One factor which prompted the introduction of the system was the necessity of speed; another was the lack of space for additional staff to handle invoicing on machines. He said that the Management, although using a punch card system, found that it introduced unexpected opportunities for error in the ledger department where it was operating.

With regard to Mr. Hyndman's point on deliveries, he said that there was more involved in the question of additional deliveries than the mere cost of putting on another van. An influencing factor was the amount of goods that would be handled at one time. It took less time to take one dozen of an item off the shelf than to take two lots each of half a dozen, which would no doubt be the trend with increased deliveries. He spoke at some length on matters that had been investigated on the recent visit overseas, with particular reference



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to mechanical equipment used, and expressed the hope that by this means the Company might well be able, in the future, to handle substantially increased business with relatively little more staff.

At the close of the meeting all present were invited to look over the new property so far as circumstances would permit, after which supper was served.

#### PRODUCTION OF ANTIBIOTICS BY GLAXO.

##### New Factory at Ulverston, Lancashire, England.

One of the largest projects carried out by Glaxo Laboratories Ltd. in post-war years has been the construction and subsequent development of the company's antibiotics plant at Ulverston, in north-west Lancashire. This enterprise has been in continuous production since April 14, 1948, and is making a substantial contribution to home and overseas supplies of penicillin, streptomycin and vitamin B<sub>12</sub>.

It was early in January, 1945, after the new factory project had got well beyond the planning stage, that the company applied to the Board of Trade for a building site. After surveys in South Wales, Lancashire and Co. Durham had been carried out, the North West Region of the Board of Trade suggested a site, a former ironworks, at Ulverston. Triangular shaped, and of an area of 140 acres, it had much to commend it. There was direct access to the sea along the east side of the Furness Peninsula; the Bardsea branch line of the Midland Region ran alongside the derelict ironworks which itself had 3000 yds. of sidings; there were ample water supplies from the neighbouring canal; and gas and electricity supplies were adequate. The manpower situation in the town and outlying district was entirely favourable to the setting up of a new industry, while the comparative nearness of Ulverston to the company's other antibiotics plant at Barnard Castle (Co. Durham) was a further advantage. For over 70 years the blast furnaces of the North Lonsdale Iron and Steel Company had stood on the site, and had employed a sizeable labour force. But in 1938 a decision was taken to transfer the operations to a more modern plant, and the ironworks were closed. This was a serious matter for Ulverston, which had then to set about trying to attract new industries to the area. The final decision of the Glaxo Directors, on July 3, 1946, to acquire the Ulverston site was therefore warmly welcomed in the district. Throughout the negotiations the local council were most co-operative, and the relationship between themselves and the company was, and has continued to be, one of extreme cordiality.

Towards the end of 1946 the necessary building licences were obtained, and by the following January work had begun. It was destined to be one of the fastest building operations in the history of the company. The work commenced at a time when the whole country was in the grip of an Arctic winter and when fuel shortages were acute, but despite the many difficulties the project went ahead with astonishing speed. Only 16 months later, on April 14, 1948, the first fermenter was seeded, and a few days later the initial batch of penicillin had been produced.

The plant has been built in fairly open country a few miles from the town, and is prominent landmark. The 350 ft. long multi-storey production and laboratories block, with its clean lines and distinctive centre tower, is of typically modern design. Attached to this main block are two wings which house the fermentation units.

When work began at the Ulverston site one of the chief preoccupations was the demolition of a part of the blast furnaces which threatened to impede building operations. To save time, the laying of the 5 ft. thick cellular reinforced concrete foundations and the demolition and clearance of the old installations went on side by side.

##### The Fermenter Halls.

In less than 12 months the first fermenter hall was complete and the foundations had been laid and steel-work was in position on the second. The fermenters were installed at the rate of one every two weeks, and initially were devoted to penicillin manufacture. At the same time the second fermenter hall was rapidly nearing completion, and by November, 1948, half of the fermentation plant was installed and working. In 1949 the second fermentation hall was completed and turned over to large-scale manufacture of streptomycin. Today one hall is devoted to penicillin manufacture and the other mainly to streptomycin.

Much depends on continuous provision of power supplies, and in the event of a grid failure Diesel-driven high-speed alternators are on stand-by to take over part of the electrical load. The fermenter halls, which are steel framed and clad with corrugated asbestos and asbestos roofing, are ventilated by large mechanically-driven extraction fans.

##### Raw Materials, Production Control and Extraction Processes.

Most of the multi-storey main building is devoted, in broad terms, to penicillin and streptomycin extraction processes and to various departments ancillary to the fermentation operations.

On the ground floor of the central part of this main block are the loading bays, despatch section, plant rooms and offices. The first floor is devoted to the storing of raw materials and to the batching areas. Inoculum production (for the seeding process) and the chemical control and biological control laboratories are sited conveniently near operating levels on the operating floor. During each fermentation run four-hourly tests are carried out in these control laboratories to check sterility, pH, etc. Liquid raw materials (acids, corn steep liquor, etc.) are stored on the third floor.

Elsewhere in the main block are sections carrying out extraction processes on both penicillin and streptomycin. The similarity between the production of penicillin and streptomycin ends at the fermentation stage. In penicillin manufacture, batteries of centrifuges are used in the solvent extraction and purification of the crude drug from the broth, followed by its precipitation as a crude salt. The crude penicillin is converted to crude sodium or potassium penicillin which, as solutions, are passed through Seitz filters into stainless steel crystallisers, where every precaution is taken to ensure sterility of both plant and product. To these crystallisers appropriate additions of solvent or procaine hydrochloride are made, under sterile conditions, according to whether the product required is crystalline sodium, potassium or procaine penicillin.

In streptomycin manufacture the drug is separated from the mould by vacuum filtration, adsorbed by means of an ion-exchange process, and subsequently eluted with acid. The solution is converted to a crude but crystalline salt, calcium chloride complex. This complex can, in turn, be converted to streptomycin sulphate by precipitating the calcium present, as insoluble sulphate, and precipitating the streptomycin sulphate from methanol. By means of catalytic hydrogenation, and similar removal of the calcium, calcium chloride complex can also be converted to dihydrostreptomycin. Solutions of streptomycin, either the complex or sulphate or of dihydrostreptomycin in water, are subjected to Seitz filtration and freeze drying operations before the drug emerges in its finished state as either sterile streptomycin or dihydrostreptomycin.

##### New Unit for Finishing Operations.

A new unit has been erected on the north side of the main installation to deal primarily with finishing operations on penicillin and streptomycin. This is a three-storey building 160 ft. x 60 ft., of brick exterior, commenced in 1949, and now in full commission. Sterile re-crystallisation processes on penicillin, finishing processes on streptomycin and dihydrostreptomycin

and streptomycin freeze-drying are some of the operations conducted in this block. Final tests on the finished products are carried out in extensive modern laboratories in the same unit.

The ground floor of the unit is devoted to sterile crystallisation on penicillin. It comprises a crystalliser room, with a battery of stainless steel crystallisers and accompanying Seitz filters; a sterile offloading section, where the containers from the crystalliser section are transferred to trays; a drier room where solvent is removed from the penicillin by drying under a vacuum in electrically-heated driers; a sterilising section; and a sieving room, where, under sterile conditions, the crystalline penicillin is reduced to a uniform smooth-flowing powder.

The first floor is devoted to the streptomycin finishing and freeze-drying sections. After the drug has undergone final purification tests in the finishing room, it passes to the freeze-drying unit, where a battery of glistening drying units, lofty ceilings, excellent natural and artificial lighting, tiled walls and gowned operatives make an impressive picture. Also in this sterile area is a cold room, milling room, and wash-up and sterilisation room, and, under the control of the Analytical Department, a sampling department. Distilled and demineralised water is supplied by this section to the plant.

#### The Laboratories.

Two departments, Analytical and Process Investigation, are housed in the top storey, the former carrying out the analytical requirements on all finished products and certain raw materials, and the latter charged with the investigation of process problems.

The Analytical Department includes two chemistry laboratories, a biological assay laboratory, media preparation and sterility testing sections, balance room and a control laboratory. One of the features of the biological assay laboratory is a plate reading projection section where projectors can handle large assay plates involving 200 samples per day. The laboratory is equipped with several incubators in which automatic temperature recorders give continuous day and night readings.

The refrigerator unit is an interesting installation. Adapted to the company's own specification, the refrigerators are low built and give bench space along their whole length.

In the air-conditioned sterility testing room samples from every batch of penicillin and streptomycin are examined for freedom from contaminating moulds and bacteria. The two chemistry laboratories separately handle penicillin and streptomycin. Distilled water on tap is a special feature of these laboratories.

The function of the Process Investigation Department is to suggest improvements in the production processes and to investigate process problems. It comprises four laboratories—Biochemistry and Biological; Physical Chemistry; Organic and Analytical; and Experimental. The section includes a darkroom with polarimeters for penicillin assay and a statistical section.

#### Administration.

The administration centre for the plant is located in a country house over 125 years old, formerly occupied by the North Lonsdale Iron and Steel Company. In this suite are the director in charge of fermentation operations and his staff; administrative departments; accounts costing and wages sections; and the teleprinters linking the plant with the company's headquarters at Greenford and its other northern antibiotics plant at Barnard Castle.

#### The Power Units.

In a well-equipped power house are steam turbine and electrically-driven air compressors supplying filtered air to the fermentation units; Diesel-driven reserve compressors; electrical switchgear and distribution equipment for supply of current, and Diesel alternators for load shedding and for use in the event of power failure. During the winter months these

Diesel alternators supply part of the factory's daytime requirements.

An efficient boiler house installation includes Lancashire oil-fired boilers, supplied with water taken from a neighbouring canal. Adjoining the boiler house is a reservoir of 1,250,000 gallons capacity, used as a spray cooling pond.

## SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

#### Health Minister's Statement.

On February 12, the Minister of Health (U.K.), replying to a Parliamentary question, made a statement on the relationship between smoking and lung cancer. The Standing Advisory Committee on Cancer and Radiotherapy had had the matter under consideration for three years, he said. As a result of preliminary investigations, a panel under the chairmanship of the Government Actuary was set up in 1953 to inquire and report. He had now been advised by the committee in the following terms:

Having considered the report of the panel under the chairmanship of the Government Actuary on the statistical evidence of an association between smoking and cancer of the lung, and having reviewed the other evidence available to them, the committee are of opinion:

(1) It must be regarded as established that there is a relationship between smoking and cancer of the lung

(2) Though there is a strong presumption that the relationship is causal, there is evidence that the relationship is not a simple one, since—

- (a) the evidence in support of the presence in tobacco smoke of a carcinogenic agent causing cancer of the lung is not yet certain;
- (b) the statistical evidence that it is unlikely that the increase in the incidence of cancer of the lung is due entirely to increases in smoking;
- (c) the difference in incidence between urban and rural areas and between different towns, suggests that other factors may be operating, e.g., atmospheric pollution, occupational risks.

(3) Although no immediate dramatic fall in death-rates could be expected if smoking ceased, since the development of lung cancer may be the result of factors operating over many years, and although no reliable quantitative estimates can be made of the effect of smoking on the incidence of cancer of the lung, it is desirable that young people should be warned of the risks apparently attendant on excessive smoking. It would appear that the risk increases with the amount smoked, particularly of cigarettes.

Mr. Macleod said that he accepted the committee's view that the statistical evidence pointed to smoking as a factor in lung cancer, but he drew attention to the fact that there is so far no firm evidence of the way in which smoking might cause lung cancer or of the extent to which it did so. Research into the causes of lung cancer had been pressed forward by the Government and by other agencies in view of the increase in the incidence of this disease and they must look to the results of its vigorous pursuit to determine future action. Before these recommendations were considered by the Government the tobacco companies had offered to give £250,000 for research. They had on his advice agreed to offer this money to the Medical Research Council.

Mr. Macleod, at a press conference the same day, explained the sequence of events which had led to the presentation of the report: an article by Dr. R. Doll and Professor A. Bradford Hill (*Brit. Med. J.*, 1950, 2, 739) suggested that there was a relationship between smoking and lung cancer, and a further article from the same authors (*ibid.*, 1952, 2, 1271) confirmed their earlier conclusions. In 1953 a panel set up under the chairmanship of the Government Actuary was asked to enquire and report to the Standing Advisory Committee.—*"The Pharmaceutical Journal,"* February 20, 1954.

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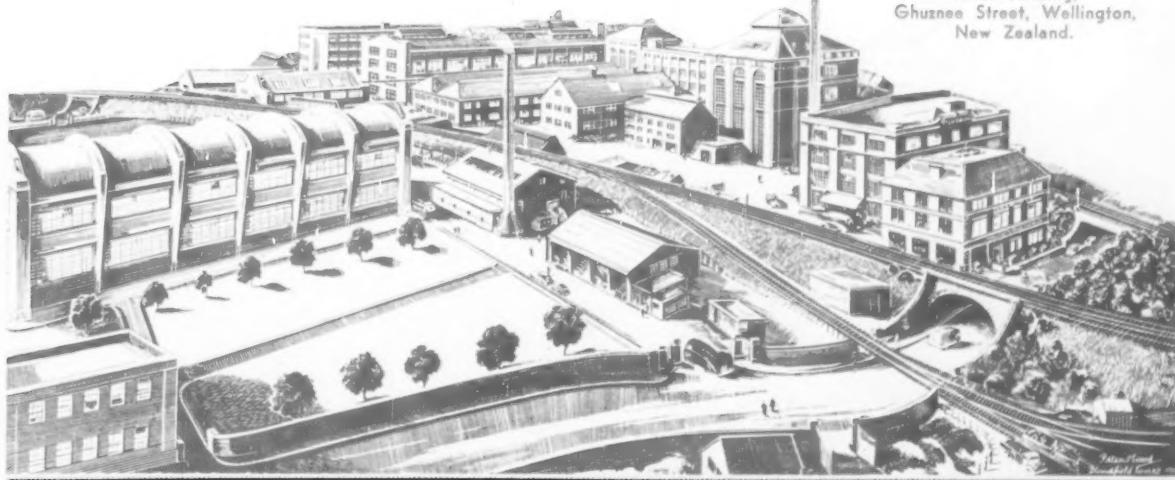
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# Commonwealth and State News

## COMMONWEALTH

### PERSONAL and GENERAL

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has approved of the appointment of Dr. Henry Erskine Downes as Acting Director-General of Health and Acting Director of Quarantine from April 16, 1954, for a period of three months or until the return of the Permanent Head from duty abroad.—(Ex. Min. No. 49.)—Commonwealth Gazette, May 6, 1954.

It is notified that Mr. D. G. Dunlop has been promoted to the position of Administrative Officer, Third Division, Pharmaceutical Section, National Health Division, as from May 6, 1954. His duties are delineated as follows:

Assist the Director of Pharmaceutical Services in non-technical aspects of the pharmaceutical benefits scheme, including finance, policy and planning, negotiations with the profession, etc.

#### C.S.I.R.O.

##### Mr. D. A. Gill to Replace Dr. L. B. Bull as Chief of C.S.I.R.O.'s Division of Animal Health and Production.

Mr. D. A. Gill will become Chief of C.S.I.R.O.'s Division of Animal Health and Production on the retirement of Dr. L. B. Bull, C.B.E., on June 30, 1954. Mr. Gill is at present an Assistant Chief of the Division and Officer-in-Charge of the McMaster Animal Health Laboratory, Sydney.

Mr. Gill was born in England and graduated M.R.C.V.S. from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and subsequently obtained the Diploma of Veterinary State Medicine. In 1925, he went to New Zealand as Assistant Director of the Veterinary Research Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture at Wallaceville (near Wellington).

He came to Australia in 1933, and worked for two years at the C.S.I.R. McMaster Animal Health Laboratory and the University of Sydney as veterinary pathologist and bacteriologist. He returned to New Zealand as District Supervisor in the Department of Agriculture.

He returned to the McMaster Laboratory in 1937 as Officer-in-Charge, and has continued in that position, except for a period of a year or so during the war, when he acted as adviser to the Department of War Organisation of Industry on rural matters.

Mr. Gill has an impressive list of scientific papers to his credit dealing mainly with diseases and pests of sheep.

He will be succeeded by Dr. D. F. Stewart as Officer-in-Charge of the McMaster Laboratory. At the same time Dr. T. S. Gregory will become Officer-in-Charge of the Division's Animal Health Laboratory at Parkville (Melbourne).

#### MR. K. G. ATTIWILL IN NORTHERN N.S.W.

Extending one of his frequent routine visits to New South Wales, Mr. K. G. Attiwill, Federal Director of Pharmaceutical Public Relations, spent several days in visiting Guild and Society members at Coff's Harbour, Grafton, Lismore and Newcastle. The lively interest held by the members in their organisations was reflected in the good "muster" at informal meetings arranged at these centres.

On his return to Sydney, Mr. Attiwill attended a special meeting of the New South Wales State Branch

Committee of the Guild, at which he reported fully about the matters discussed, and said that he was deeply impressed by the loyalty and solidarity of the country members to the Guild.

Mr. Attiwill, by invitation of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales (Mr. E. G. Hall) attended the presentation at the Stawell Hall, Macquarie Street, on May 22, of diploma certificates to newly qualified students in pharmacy, and joined with Mr. Hall, the President of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales (Mr. J. L. Townley) and the Vice-President of the New South Wales Branch of the Guild (Mr. O. C. V. Leggo) in expressing thanks to the Minister for Health (Mr. Maurice O'Sullivan) for having presented the certificates.

In Sydney Mr. Attiwill also discussed with Mr. H. D. B. Cox, honorary secretary of the New South Wales P.A.T.A., efforts being made to obtain in the projected Federal Trade Marks Bill a provision for manufacturers to safeguard the minimum resale price of their goods. The object is to establish a minimum resale price for branded goods on the lines of a similar provision in the Patents Act for patented goods. Such a provision, it is claimed, would ensure stability of prices, and it would be of great benefit to all retail traders, including pharmaceutical chemists.

Immediately on his return to Melbourne, Mr Attiwill left for Western Australia with the Federal President of the Guild (Mr. Eric Scott), where they attended a meeting of the Federal Executive and addressed meetings of the Guild members at Perth, Kalgoorlie and Merredin. This visit is reported elsewhere in this issue.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### PERSONAL and GENERAL

State  
News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in W.A., Mr. F. W. Avenell (phone BA 4082).

We extend our best wishes to Mr. E. E. Down, who has opened a pharmacy at Mt. Pleasant.

Mr. E. C. Knight, of Collie, spent his holidays in Perth. Mr. P. J. H. Boobyer acted as locum.

Mr. F. M. Fraser spent last month in Perth. Mrs. Jill Coates was in charge of the pharmacy at Geraldton.

Mr. M. M. Mendelawitz has been away from his pharmacy for a month on a cruise to Singapore. Mr. R. M. Wiltshire acted as locum.

Mr. M. C. Hawke was in charge of Mr. H. N. Armstrong's pharmacy whilst the latter visited his favourite fishing haunts at Augusta.

Congratulations to Mr. G. M. Hubbard, a pharmacy apprentice of Perth, who won the Sculling Championship in Hobart on May 1.

Mr. C. Rutledge has purchased the pharmacy of the late Mr. A. H. Lord, at North Perth. Mr. P. B. Costiff is in charge at the Mt. Lawley pharmacy.

Mrs. J. G. Nicholls, who returned recently from England, acted as locum for Mr. R. W. Dalby whilst he relaxed at Palm Beach for a few weeks.

Mr. R. E. Wynne has been convalescing at Denmark for a few weeks following a few days in hospital. At

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Continued)

the time of writing these notes he was reported to be making good progress. Mr. J. C. Wall was in charge of the pharmacy.

**Messrs. E. Scott and K. Attiwill**, of Victoria, and Mr. W. C. Cotterell, of South Australia, visited the State from May 10 to 13. Their itinerary included meetings at Kalgoorlie, Merredin and Perth. Opportunity was taken to discuss with local officials some of the problems affecting the profession.

### WEDDINGS.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Miss M. Smedley**, who was married to Mr. R. Humphreys on May 15.

Congratulations to Mrs. Dawson (nee Dorothy Paton) whose marriage took place on April 22.

### PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY LECTURE.

The large chemistry lecture theatre was filled to capacity for the monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society on April 28. The speaker was Dr. G. A. Kelsall and his subject, "The Anemias."

Prior to the lecture the retiring President, Mr. H. D. Fitch, introduced the new President, Mr. R. I. Cohen, who was elected at the April meeting of the Council. Mr. Cohen introduced the Deputy President, Mr. A. A. Baxter.

At the conclusion of the lecture the Deputy President moved a vote of thanks to the speaker and this was carried enthusiastically by the members present.

### VETERINARY MEDICINES ACT.

An Act, to be known as the Veterinary Medicines Act 1953, was assented to on December 18, 1953. This Act is to come into effect at a date to be proclaimed. The Act calls for registration by the primary dealer (i.e. the distributor, manufacturer, etc., primarily responsible for placing, or causing to be placed, the veterinary medicines on the market) of all veterinary medicines.

A penalty of £50 is provided for the sale of a package of a registered veterinary medicine not labelled as required by the Act, or bearing a statement in contravention of the Act.

Section 14 fixes a fine of £50 for a first offence and £100 for subsequent offences relating to the sale of veterinary medicines which are not registered, or which do not conform with the registered prescription or composition, or which make claims other than those in respect of which they are registered, after the expiration of a period of six months after the coming into operation of the Act.

All primary dealers in veterinary medicines are required, within 30 days of coming into operation of the Act, or within 30 days after commencing business and thereafter in every year, before June 30, to apply for registration of the veterinary medicines marketed by them.

In the case of veterinary medicines other than biological products, a prescription must be submitted, and in the case of biological products, the composition thereof.

Full directions for the use and application of the medicine, a statement of diseases or injuries which it is intended to cure or alleviate, and other information must be supplied, together with a Statutory Declaration verifying the statement and a fee which will be prescribed by Regulations.

A Committee is to be set up to administer the Act. This Committee will consist of the Chief Veterinary Surgeon of the Department of Agriculture (Chairman), the Deputy Government Analyst, the Principal of the Animal Health and Nutrition Laboratories, and a veterinary surgeon selected by the Western Australian Division of the Australian Veterinary Association and nominated by the Minister.

The function of the Committee will be to inquire into and report to the Minister on matters referred to it by him or by the Chief Veterinary Surgeon in relation to the regulation of sales of veterinary medicines.

The Act does not apply to any veterinary medicines prescribed in the course of his profession by a veterinary surgeon nor to veterinary medicines supplied by a veterinary surgeon for stock under his professional care.

It is further provided that the Act shall not apply to any veterinary medicine compounded in respect of any particular stock in the ordinary course of his business by a registered pharmaceutical chemist, but shall apply to any substance compounded by that person for general use in the State.

### PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL

*Monthly Meeting*

The Pharmaceutical Council of W.A. met at the Technical College, Perth, on May 4.

**Present.**—Messrs. R. I. Cohen, H. D. Fitch, R. W. Dalby, T. D. H. Allan, E. J. Nicholas, A. A. Baxter and F. W. Avenell (Registrar).

**Correspondence.**—From Mr. E. Howells, enclosing fees. It was decided to confer Honorary Membership on Mr. Howells, in recognition of his long and valued membership of the Society, he having been a member since January 14, 1903.

From F. C. Kent, enclosing copy of letter from Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, re reciprocity with Malta. Action to be deferred pending results of current correspondence with Great Britain concerning reciprocal agreements with that country.

From Police Department, advising death from Cyanide poisoning (Symag) at Pinjarra (self administered).

From Registrar-General, advising death of A. H. Lord on 20/2/54.

**Registrations Approved.**—R. T. Platt, C. Beck, P. B. Costiff and R. M. Wiltshire.

**Honorary Membership Conferred.**—E. Howells.

**Re-Registration.**—Mrs. B. Kekwick (nee Hinde).

**Indentures Suspended** on account of National Service Training and resumed.—K. G. McKenzie, J. B. Nicholas, J. W. Major and G. I. Hollyock.

**Liability for Apprentices' Registration Fee.**—After discussion it was decided to recommend that these fees be the joint liability of both parties to the agreement, and should be paid on a 50/50 basis.

**Gavel for Use of President.**—Mr. T. D. H. Allan stated that he desired to donate a gavel to the Council for the use of the President. This offer was gratefully accepted by those present.

**Commercial Training.**—The Registrar submitted a draft syllabus of the proposed practical course in shop and office routine as agreed to by the joint committee of Council and Guild representatives. It was decided to approve the draft, subject to certain amendments. The amended draft with proposed covering letter to be submitted to the Guild for further consideration.

**Financial.**—Accounts totalling £286/11/8 were passed for payment.

The meeting closed at 10.55 p.m.

# TASMANIA

## PERSONAL and GENERAL

## State News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in Tasmania, Miss M. L. Williams, 276 Argyle St., North Hobart (phone B 1010).

**Mr. J. H. Gould** has been mixing business with pleasure while taking his holidays in the North of the State.

**Mr. and Mrs. John Fitzpatrick**, of Launceston, receive our congratulations on the birth of a son on April 20.

We are pleased to welcome home **Miss Dorothy Croft** after her sojourn in New Zealand. We hope to hear something of her trip very soon.

**Mr. McCreary**, of Macquarie Street, had a rather unexpected visitor when a motor cyclist decided to enter via the window after losing control of his machine.

**Mrs June Dawson** has now taken over the position of manager at the U.F.S. Dispensary. Good luck, June. **Mrs. Ross** has also joined the permanent full-time staff of the Dispensary.

**Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Gluskie** had a very good Easter holiday on the North West Coast, and as we write they are enjoying further holidays at South Arm.

**Mr. Tony Copeland**, son of Mr. Copeland, Ulverstone, has been successful in his final examinations in Melbourne.

Among the other lucky holiday-makers are **Mr. Boland** at Burnie; **Mr. Trevor Elliott**, of Devonport, and quite a band from Launceston including **Miss Annear**, **Mr. Widdowson**, **Mr. Roots** and **Mr. Dineen**. We hope that they all had a very good time.

Our warmest congratulations to **Mr. Laurie Abra**, who celebrated his 85th birthday in April. Mr. Abra is the oldest registered pharmacist in Tasmania, and we hope that he will have many years yet working among us.

The Vocational Guidance Bureau has been arranging visits to various factories and businesses in Hobart for students about to leave school in order to help them decide their future careers. Several city pharmacies were included in the scheme, and we understand the youngsters seemed very interested in all they saw.

## NEW RATES FOR TASMANIAN HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS.

Following recent meetings of the State Wages Board for Hospitals, marginal rates have been varied on the basis of similar variations in Victoria. Effective on and from the first full pay period in April, 1954, the rates became:

### Pharmacists.

#### Total Weekly Rate.

(a) Registered Pharmacist . . . . .	£20 10 0
(b) Relieving Pharmacist . . . . .	21 10 0
(c) Chief Pharmacist—	
(i) where four or more full-time pharmaceutical chemists are employed	25 10 0
(ii) where two or three full-time pharmaceutical chemists are employed	24 10 0
(iii) where he is the only pharmaceutical chemist employed . . . . .	23 0 0
(d) Senior Pharmacist (i.e., a pharmaceutical chemist where three or more full-time pharmaceutical chemists are employed) who takes charge of the pharmacy during absence of chief pharmacist . . . . .	21 10 0
(e) Pharmacy Assistant, stores . . . . .	14 1 0

## Pharmacist's Apprentice.

	%
First year of service . . . . .	23
Second year of service . . . . .	31
Third year of service . . . . .	45
Fourth year of service . . . . .	55

Fifth year of service and thereafter until qualifying as a registered pharmaceutical chemist, 85 per cent. of the total rate prescribed for a registered pharmaceutical chemist, i.e., £17/8/6.

Basic wage in Hobart is at present (May, 1954), £12/2/- per week.

## PHARMACY BOARD

## Monthly Meeting

The Pharmacy Board of Tasmania met at 85 Elizabeth Street, Hobart, on May 17, at 8 p.m.

**Present.**—Mr. H. H. Pearce (chairman), Miss M. L. Williams, Messrs. I. B. McLeod, E. H. Shield, A. G. Gould, J. M. Beaumont, and the Registrar.

### Pharmaceutical Register.

Brian Robert Middlemiss (ex-South Australia) was registered.

Malcolm Prichard.—Registration approved subject to the presentation of Diploma.

**Apprentice Reports.**—Reports were received on pharmacy students attending the Launceston Technical College.

**Indentures.**—Indentures of David Neill to Eric John Bourke, David Alfred Gough to Edward Hugh Shield, and Beatrice Jill Henry to Keith Halstead Jenkins were approved.

Keith Stanton Brown to J. Bevan Warland Browne.—Registration of indentures was approved subject to the hours under Section 3b being entered.

**Reciprocity with Malta.**—Advice was received from Mr. Kent on the manner in which an application from the Malta University would be received in Great Britain. Members decided that any such applications received in Tasmania would be considered on the individual circumstances.

**Therapeutic Substances Act.**—Mr. Pearce explained action which he had taken following a letter regarding consideration of this Act. He pointed out that after discussion with the Chief Secretary it was decided that this matter would not come within the scope of the Pharmacy Board.

**Finance.**—A financial statement was presented showing a balance of £895/0/4. Accounts totalling £61/2/1 were passed for payment.

**Pharmacy Act.**—Lists of registered Pharmacists were received from the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland.

### Poisons Act.

**Sulphanilamide and Sulphacetamide in Ointment and Eyedrops.**—Mr. Beaumont stated that he felt some relaxation of the control over these items was justified. After full discussion of the possibilities the meeting considered that no relaxation should be made in relation to eyedrops, and that the words "except when in the form of creams or ointments not intended for oral administration" be added to the item covering "Sulphonamides" in the first Schedule of the Poisons Act.

**Notice of motion** was given by Miss Williams that consideration be given to the sale of tablets containing Phenobarbital in admixtures.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

## TASMANIA (Continued)

### PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

#### General Meeting

A general meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania was held at Girl Guide Association Rooms, Murray street, Hobart, on April 14, at 8 p.m.

**Present.**—The President (Mr. A. P. Brammall) and 23 members.

The President opened the meeting and outlined the purpose of the gathering. He said that because of poor attendances at general meetings it was thought that the Women Pharmacists' Association and the Students' Association should join with the Pharmaceutical Society in its meetings. Hobart, he said, was not large enough to warrant separate meetings of three different bodies, as some members were bound to find it impossible to attend all meetings in any one month. The President then invited discussion.

There followed one of the liveliest meetings held for some time, and nearly all members spoke. Several contentious points were raised, and much information came to light re the various organisations' grievances.

Mr. McIntosh (for the Students) said that he was unaware that students could join the Pharmaceutical Society, and that he felt Students were not welcomed at Society meetings.

Miss Andrews (for Women Pharmacists) said her Association did not clash with any Society meetings, and practically all of its members were members of the Pharmaceutical Society, and regularly attended meetings of that body. She also said that at Society meetings members and students did not meet one another sufficiently to be well acquainted, and were apt to congregate in small groups rather than move about amongst the other members.

Mr. J. Gould gave an interesting account of the history of the Tasmanian Society.

After discussing the problems for about one hour, Mr. A. G. Gould moved that Society meetings be held every three months. Mr. Crisp seconded.

Mr. Fuller moved an amendment that meetings be held every two months. Miss Blunt seconded the amendment.

The meeting voted for the amendment, which was passed.

The type of evenings to be held was discussed, and Miss Wilks moved that the Women Pharmacists and Students' Association suggest programmes to be sponsored by the Society. Mr. Crisp seconded.

The subject-matter for the meetings to be held in June would be suggested by the Students.

Supper was enjoyed by all at the conclusion of the meeting at 10 p.m.

### THE GUILD

#### General Meeting

A general meeting of members of the Tasmanian Branch of the Guild was held at 73 Liverpool street, Hobart, on April 22, at 8 p.m.

**Present.**—Mr. G. M. Fleming (Chairman), Miss E. M. Hurst, Miss M. Williams, Messrs. C. A. Robertson, A. G. Gould, A. K. Smith, K. H. Jenkins, C. B. Dillon, T. P. Tighe, A. G. Crane, L. W. Palfreyman, D. R. Crisp, G. R. Bester, and the Secretary.

**Ipana-Nada Month.**—The Chairman reported that all members were fully co-operating with the merchandising drive, and appreciation was expressed for the references to these items over the air by Mr. E. H.

Shield and also in a circular from L. Fairthorne & Son Pty. Ltd.

**Products Unsuitably Packed for Dispensing.**—Mr. Crisp reported that he had drawn up a list of items which he considered were not suitably packed for dispensing. He thought that different pharmacies would find other lines which were commonly used by them. He suggested that others might wish to consider the list, which was handed to the Chairman to be passed on to Mr. Robertson.

**New Members Elected.**—Mr. Durrant Edward Fuller, North Hobart, and John McCorquodale, Derwent Park.

**Financial.**—Accounts totalling £246/8/6 were passed for payment.

**Aller-Ban.**—A letter was received from the Victorian Branch setting out details for the proposed distribution of this product in Tasmania. After discussing the matter, the meeting decided that a letter should be sent to the Federal Merchandising Department asking for their views.

**Sales by General Stores.**—Mr. Tighe drew attention to the illegal sale of Aspro, Bex, etc., and suggested that the suppliers be asked to restrict their supplies through wholesale chemists.

After discussion, the Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with the representatives in Tasmania.

**By-laws.**—A letter was received from the Federal Secretary advising that it would be necessary for the Branch to revise its by-laws to comply with the requirements of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

A Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. Palfreyman, Crisp and Fleming was formed for this purpose to meet on May 11.

**Federal Council Meeting.**—Advice was received that the next Federal Council meeting will be held in Melbourne, commencing on Monday, October 25, and that remits must be in by August 25.

**Sunday Night Roster.**—The Chairman stated he had been requested to consider the suggestion that only one-third of the pharmacies in Hobart should open each Sunday night.

Mr. Bester considered that the time had come to establish an every-night pharmacy.

Mr. Palfreyman felt that by closing on Sunday night chemists would drive more business to the general stores.

The meeting finally decided that no further action would be taken in this matter, as it was considered that Hobart had not reached a big enough population to justify an all-night pharmacy.

**Karilac.**—Attention was drawn to the price revision of Karilac with a decrease in the percentage margin. The Secretary was instructed to request that the margin be restored to 33 1/3 per cent.

**Magazine.**—Mr. Crisp advised that a report had been received from Mr. Attiwill of a favourable percentage of replies being received on the questionnaire regarding the proposed magazine, and that the project would now be further considered.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

#### WHO BUYS?

Sometime during last year there was a lot of excitement aroused by the discovery that a much higher percentage of men were shopping in super-markets than anyone suspected, and in addition that men were much more inclined to trade up, to spend more money and fall more readily for impulse purchases than women. This brought about a lot of discussion on the advisability of directing more advertising to men, and one large food chain started an experimental test in this direction. Now we hear of a new research program which shows that 25 per cent. of family food buying is done by teenagers. This ought to settle the marketing research questions once and for all. Apparently just about everybody buys food.—From "Drug and Cosmetic Industry," February, 1954.

# TESTIMONIALS TALK!



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pensiveness has, in my opinion, everything to recommend it, in running a modern Pharmacy.

I have no hesitation in advising my fellow Pharmacists to examine the BRIG-MARKER system, and I am sure they will find it will save them time, and money, as well as enable them to have a stricter control over their stock and pricing system.

Yours sincerely,  
*Ray R. Wilson*

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# Bengue's Balsam

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Contains: 16% Menthol.  
16% Methyl Salicylate in a lanoline ointment base. Tubes of 1 oz.



## NESTOSYL Ointment

An antiseptic and anaesthetic ointment that promotes healing and rapidly stops pain and itching.



Tubes of  
1½ OZS.

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N-butyl-p-aminobenzoate	2%
Resorcin	2%
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# NEW SOUTH WALES

## PERSONAL and GENERAL

## State News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in N.S.W. Phone BU 3092.

*Of old when folk lay sick and sorely tried  
The doctors gave them physic, and they died.  
But here's a happier age: for now we know  
Both how to make men sick and keep them so.*

—Belloc.

**Mr. F. F. Hill** has closed his pharmacy at Yeoval.

**Mr. F. Flanagan** has purchased the pharmacy of Mr. I. C. Wilson, of Temora.

**Miss E. E. Forbes** has opened a pharmacy cnr. Rau and Hovel streets, East Albury.

**Mr. H. J. Goldman** has purchased the pharmacy at 484 Old South Head road, Rose Bay East.

**Mr. I. A. Hicks** has purchased the pharmacy at 59 Main street, Lithgow.

**Mr. E. C. Morgan** now has a pharmacy at Montgomery street, Kogarah.

**Mr. J. D. Maher** has a pharmacy in Balaclava road, Marsfield.

**Mr. D. J. Bone** has opened a pharmacy at 266 Woodville road, Guildford North.

**Mr. B. E. P. Nash** has established a pharmacy at 289 Darling street, Balmain.

**Mr. A. E. Roper**, late of Lithgow, has disposed of his pharmacy.

The pharmacy owned by the Estate of the **late F. A. Benson**, Bondi, has been sold to Mr. J. Utting.

**Mr. A. Bendel**, Mascot, has sold his pharmacy to Miss Nowles.

**Miss H. S. Moore**, Croydon, has sold her pharmacy to Mr. K. H. Tasker.

**Mr. F. P. McDonagh**, Blakehurst, has disposed of his pharmacy to Mr. C. M. Attwood.

**Stinson's Pharmacy**, Randwick, has been sold to Mr. Shiner.

**Mrs. M. Tasker**, of Singleton, has sold her pharmacy to Mr. A. G. H. Woods.

**Mr. K. E. Thomas**, member of the State Branch Committee, recently paid a visit to Canberra on Guild business.

**Mr. S. R. Miller** has a pharmacy at 138 Railway parade, Kogarah. Mr. Miller was formerly in business at Randwick.

**Theft from Drug Stores.**—Thieves broke into the Queenscliff Drug Store, Queenscliff, on the night of May 19, and stole goods worth £150, including cameras, razor blades, sunglasses, cigarettes, tobacco, and cash from the till. The proprietor, Mr. John Greentree, said he discovered the theft on the following morning, and reported the matter to the police, who are investigating.

## PHARMACY BALL.

The 1954 Pharmacy Ball will be held at the Trocadero on Monday, August 23.

Tickets will shortly be available from the Society's rooms, "Science House," 157 Gloucester street, Sydney.

## PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS INSPECTORSHIP— NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Health Department invites applications from registered pharmacists within the Commonwealth, either within or without the Commonwealth Service, for the position of pharmacist (inspection), Grade 1,

Third Division, Pharmaceutical Section, National Health Division.

Duties are inspections under the Pharmaceutical Benefits provisions of the National Health Act.

## N.S.W. SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER.

The Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales announces that it will hold its annual dinner for 1954 at "Florida House," 12 Tivoli avenue, Rose Bay, on Thursday, June 17, at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the Society desirous of attending are asked to advise the Secretary of the Society.

Subscription per head is £2/10/-.

Formal dress.

## SYDNEY UNIVERSITY PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

### Text-books Wanted.

At present in Sydney there is an acute shortage of pharmaceutical text-books, in particular Bentley and Driver's Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Would any ex-students who are willing to sell their old copies contact Miss M. Frith, Department of Pharmacy, Sydney University (MW 0522, Ext. 311), as soon as possible?

## PENSIONERS' MEDICINE SERVICE.

### Dispensing of Mist. Gent. Alk.

At a recent Zone meeting the query was posed: "If a doctor writes Mist. Gent. Alk. on a P.M.S. prescription form and does not indicate what formula is intended, should I dispense Mist. Gent. Alk. A.P.F. or the formula as listed in the Prescribers List?"

Answer: The chemist should dispense Mist. Gent. Alk. in accordance with the formula set out in the Prescribers List (P.M.S.). He should not dispense Mist. Gent. Alk. according to the A.P.F. formula.

## WITHDRAWAL OF DOCTOR'S DRUG AUTHORITY

The following communication has been received from the Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department, Sydney, under date May 21, 1954:

"I am directed to inform you that a notification will be published in the issue of the Government Gazette on Friday, May 28, 1954, withdrawing on and from Monday, 14th June, 1954, the authority of **Dr. Herbert Sheldon** to procure and be in possession of drugs to which the Police Offences (Amendment) Act applies for the purpose of his profession and to issue prescriptions for such drugs. The authority has been withdrawn by the Minister in terms of Regulation 25 under the Act."

## NEWCASTLE SOCIAL NEWS.

**Mr. A. J. DeFina**, President of the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Pharmacists' Association, recently entered the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, where he underwent an operation. He is now convalescing, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

During Mr. DeFina's absence his duties were performed by Mr. Neville Lewis, Senior Vice-President.

Miss Claire Farrell, registered assistant, Soul Pattinson Ltd., is convalescing after an emergency appendectomy.

Mr. Frank Callen, of Carrington, has returned to his pharmacy after several weeks' illness.

Mr. Jim Cornelius, local warehouse manager of Elliotts & Australian Drug Pty. Ltd., Newcastle, is again on duty after a brief sojourn in hospital for removal of tonsils.

## ALLEGED FALSE CLAIMS UNDER THE PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS ACT.

On May 17, Dr. Morris Seifert, of Bay street, North Bondi, Dr. Rellee George Skinner, of Enmore road, Newtown, and Mr. Ronald McKenzie Beesley, chemist, of Enmore road, Enmore, were charged with conspiring together and with others in 1951 to defraud the Commonwealth of large sums of money by submitting to

## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

the Department of Health false claims under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act.

It was alleged by the Crown that the conspiracy was to defraud the Commonwealth of between £4000 and £5000 by false claims for pharmaceutical benefits.

Mr. Cameron Smith, for Dr. Seifert, said the allegations against Seifert arose from investigations made in 1951 and about which nothing had been done until 1954.

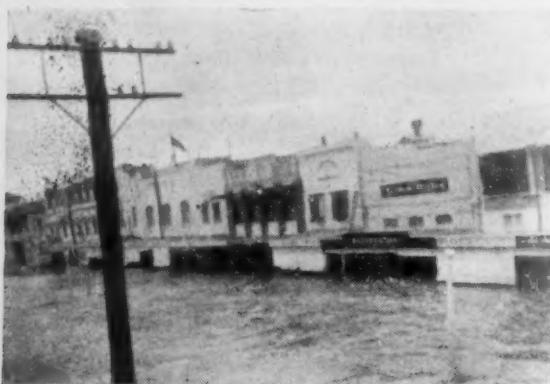
Mr. M. S. Meagher (S.M.) reduced Dr. Seifert's bail to £500, and ordered him to report to the officer-in-charge of Bondi Police Station once a week.

Mr. R. Taylor, Q.C., for the Crown, asked that the hearing be further adjourned because the Crown was not ready to proceed.

### FLOOD DAMAGE AT LISMORE.

Heavy losses were suffered by a number of chemists in the northern rivers district of New South Wales during the disastrous floods of February last.

This photograph shows the deep flood waters swirling through the shops in Molesworth street, Lismore.



Lismore flood (February 19, 1954). Murray Osborne's pharmacy, Molesworth street.

The pharmacy of Mr. Murray Osborne, which was so extensively damaged that an entire refitting of the shop and dispensary was necessary, is in the centre of this snapshot, with its tarpaulin showing signs of the battering by the storm.

Mr. K. G. Attiwill, Federal Public Relations Director, who recently visited the area, praised the fortitude of the chemists in the face of the disastrous floods which ruined much of their stock and in some cases menaced their very lives and those of their families.

### SHOPS OPEN AFTER HOURS.

The Chief Industrial Magistrate, Mr. H. Isles, on May 26 fined two chemists for having their shops open after hours.

Diane Carmody, of Hall street, Bondi, was fined £7/10/- on a charge of having opened her chemist shop after 7 p.m. on March 23.

Mr. J. B. Ryman, for Carmody, said a man knocked on the door of the shop at 7.50 p.m. and asked the assistant if he could be sold a plastic horse for a present.

The man said he was worried about going home to his wife without the present.

Mr. Isles commented: "The assistant need not have sold the horse. He didn't have to face the wife."

Mr. Isles fined a King's Cross chemist, Robert Arthur Hudspeth, of Bayswater road, £20 for failing to close his shop at 7 p.m. on March 17.

Mr. J. Cahill, for Raymond Bridge, an inspector under the Factories and Shops Act, said Hudspeth had nume-

rous convictions, and had already paid fines totalling more than £200 for similar offences.

He said the shop at Bayswater road had been open and fully lighted at 8.45 p.m. on March 17. Shaving cream, cough mixture, cigarettes and other articles were being sold.

### CHEMISTS AND THE VETERINARY ACT.

The Board of Veterinary Surgeons has recently been concerned at the activities of some chemists who appear to be unaware of the prohibitions imposed by the Act upon their entry into certain fields of veterinary practice.

The prohibitions are contained in Section 21 (3) of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1923-1952, thus:-

"**Sec. 21 (3):** No person other than a Veterinary Surgeon registered under this Act shall—

- (a) practise as a veterinary surgeon;
- (b) do or perform, for fee or reward, any act, matter or thing, the doing or performance of which forms part of the practice of veterinary science; or
- (c) take or use the name 'veterinary surgeon' or the term 'veterinary' or any abbreviation thereof, either alone or in connection with any other name, title or business:

Provided that this sub-section shall not prohibit persons from using the term 'veterinary' only as indicating that they carry on the business of suppliers of wares or materials used in connection with veterinary science."

This advice is printed at the request of the Board of Veterinary Surgeons of N.S.W.

### N.S.W. CHEMISTS' GOLF CLUB.

The usual bi-monthly game of this club was played in ideal weather at the Lakes Golf Club on May 6. An unusual and novel event was added to the trophy list on this occasion. This was a cup presented to the club by Terry Scanlon, compere and star of the current "Hot Ice" show. The cup was called the "Hot Ice" Cup, and played for as a secret nine hole stableford. The eventual winner was Wally Pinerua, with the excellent score of 21 points.

The other events were also all played as stableford competitions, and the results were:

#### Four Ball.

Winners: Rufe Frew and Alan Hughes, 42 points; runners-up: Bob Crawford and Doug Worrell, 41 points, on a count back from Ray Relton and Les Weiland.

"A" Grade.—Hymie Eizenberg, 32 pts, on a count back from Alan Weir and Laurie Skinner.

"B" Grade.—Stan Palfreyman, 32 pts.

"C" Grade.—Don Campbell, 33 pts.

"Hot Ice" Cup.—The leading scorers in this special event were: Wally Pinerua, 21 pts.; Tom Barry, 19 pts.; Les Weiland, 19 pts.; Cliff Gostelow, 18 pts.; Stan Palfreyman, 18 pts.; Len Luber, 18 pts.; Phil Gray, 17 pts.; Hymie Eizenberg, 16 pts.

### QUESTIONS ON P.B.A. AND P.M.S. MATTERS.

**I. Regarding Inspectors—Department of Health, P.M.S.** What is the position of the pharmacist who has been in the habit of keeping various stock mixtures for dispensing private prescriptions, and who is visited by an inspector for the purpose of obtaining samples of drugs and galenicals which may be used in P.M.S. dispensing?

**Answer:** A pharmacist can only be referred to a Committee of Inquiry if the product he supplied was not up to standard. On the other hand, P.M.S. items should be dispensed extemporaneously.

**2. Stock Mixtures.** Are there any exceptions to the general rule of extemporaneous dispensing, e.g. Mist. Alum, Hydrox. and similar preparations which take a

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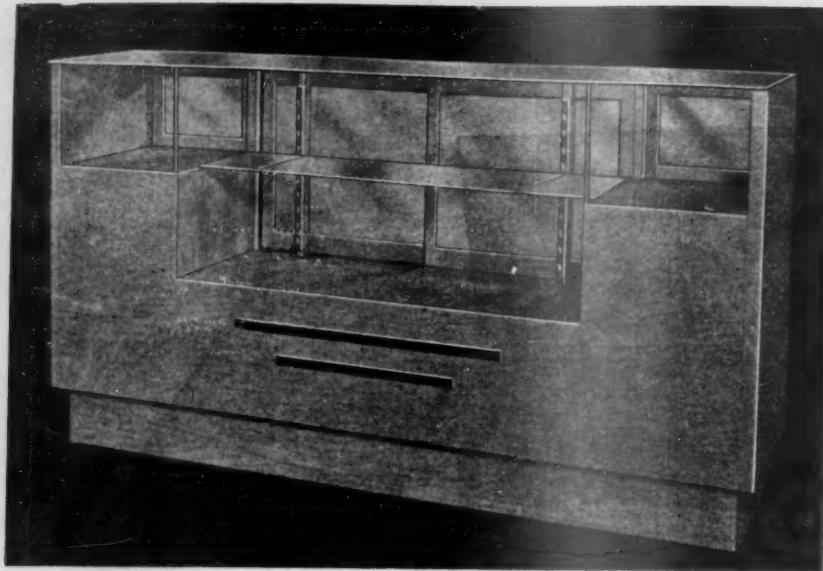
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## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

long time to prepare and are quite stable as stock mixtures?

It has been suggested that inquiries should be made specifically about the following:—

Mist. Alum. Hydrox., Paraff et Agar; Lin. Terebinth and Linct. Codeine.

3. If a doctor writes a P.M.S. script including an item which is not a B.P. drug, is it correct to "ring it" and mark the prescription "not included per doctor"?

Answer: A script written like that is not a P.M.S. benefit.

4. Stilboestrol is not a P.M.S. benefit.

### DENTURE SUPPLY BY MECHANICS TO PUBLIC OPPOSED.

State Government sources said on April 22 that a fact-finding committee had recommended to the Minister for Health, Mr. M. O'Sullivan, that dental mechanics should not be allowed to supply dentures direct to the public.

The recommendation was made in a report by the Under-Secretary for Health, Mr. G. R. Cameron, on the committee's inquiries into the question.

The committee was set up after repeated requests by the Dental Technicians' Association for permission to deal direct with the public.

The Dental Act requires dental technicians to supply dentures to the public only through registered dentists.

A deputation from the Dental Technicians' Association on April 21 asked Mr. O'Sullivan to amend the Act to permit technicians to sell dentures direct to the public.

Mr. O'Sullivan said later: "I will give the deputation copies of the report made by the fact-finding committee on the matter. The deputation will examine the report and will see me again later."

Government sources said at the time that Mr. Cameron's report would probably be made public late in April. It would be considered by the N.S.W. Labour Council, and would probably be discussed by the State Parliamentary Labour Caucus.

The Labour Council has adopted a report by its health and social services committee that dental technicians should be allowed to supply dentures to the public subject to certain conditions.

The Dental Technicians' Association has sought the support of many private Labour M.L.A.'s on the question.

The matter was raised in Caucus recently, but was deferred pending the release of the fact-finding committee's report.

### NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER VALLEY PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.

(The Association previously known as the Mid Northern Pharmacists' Association, with headquarters in Newcastle, N.S.W., has changed its name to The Newcastle and Hunter Valley Pharmacists' Association.)

**Reckitt & Colman (Australia) Ltd.**—Film and Social Night in Newcastle.

On the night of April 21 a gathering of over 120 assembled at Winns Shortland Room, the purpose of the function being to screen several technical films to the pharmacists of this important area.

In his opening remarks, the President of the N.H.V.P.A., Mr. A. J. DeFina, congratulated members of the Association on their wise choice of a new name for the Association. By its very title now it indicated the full scope of this important zone of the Federated Pharmaceutical Service Guild of Australia, which is without a doubt one of the largest zones in the organisation. Mr. DeFina said it was very pleasing to see

many members present from distances up to 40 and 50 miles from the coalfields and lakeside areas.

Mr. DeFina then introduced Mr. K. Howitt, Advertising Manager, to the many members of the N.H.V.P.A.

Mr. Howitt said on behalf of the company it gave him and his fellow executives great pleasure to come to Newcastle and to show films of this nature to the professional men of pharmacy. The titles of the films to be shown were:—

"Normal Delivery" (Rotunda Hospital, Dublin).

"Caesarian Section" (University of Sydney, King George V Hospital).

"Care of the Colostomy."

The films screened were in excellent colour photography, and were much appreciated by the audience. The subject matter was very interesting, and the commentary on the first two films was most ably given by Mr. John Sivetson, Medical Representative.

During the short interval whilst reels were being changed, Mr. Howitt introduced Mr. Harman, Sales Manager, who endorsed Mr. Howitt's remarks, and said how much the company appreciated the support given to "Dettol" by the pharmacists generally. It was, he said, mutually advantageous to keep up the good work in this sphere, and he had great confidence in the future of the "Chemist-Only" section of the company and in retail pharmacy in Australia.

At the end of the films a vote of thanks was moved by Mr. John David and carried by acclamation.

To conclude the evening, Reckitt & Colman (Australia) Ltd. entertained all present at a delightful buffet supper.

**Calendar of Future Events** for the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Pharmacists' Association:—

June 16: Merchandising Lecture (Chamber of Manufacturers).

July 21: Regular Monthly Meeting, N.H.V.P.A.

July 28: Second Annual Chemists' Ball.

August 18: Lecture by Professor R. H. Thorp.

September: Proposed Film Night by Nicholas Ethicals.

October: The Annual Meeting of N.H.V.P.A.

November: Final Meeting of N.H.V.P.A. for 1954.

### SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.

I have pleasure in presenting the Second Annual Report of the activities of our Association. Members have displayed continued enthusiasm, and with only one or two exceptions have endeavoured to maintain regular attendance at meetings. In this regard I should like to pay tribute to those who have to travel long distances, e.g. from Springwood and Lithgow, and yet have rarely missed a meeting.

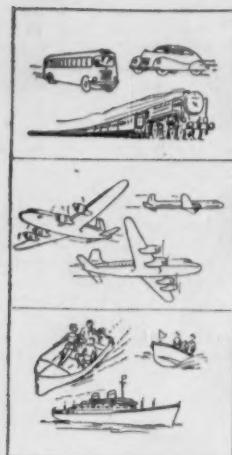
Our meeting in June took place at the home of Mr. Porges, of Lithgow. Weather conditions were ideal, and members east of Lithgow thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

Most of our deliberations have concerned comparatively minor matters which nevertheless have, in the aggregate, contributed to the smoother running of our pharmacies. It is noteworthy that, while candour has never been missing, our discussions have always proceeded most amicably.

Some months ago dissatisfaction with the Developing and Printing Service provided by Kodak Ltd. was expressed by several members. I should like it to be placed on record that this firm took immediate steps to investigate the complaints, to explain the difficulties, and to improve the service where possible. I am sure we all appreciate the goodwill and co-operation evinced by Kodak Ltd. on this and other occasions.

There has been general resentment of the policy of Frederick Stearns & Co. in reducing profit margins on Nyal lines, and we have given voice to this resentment in appropriate quarters. Without achieving anything of a concrete nature, we at least know that now our

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## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

views on this matter are shared by a large number of other pharmacists, and we look forward to an eventual improvement in the position.

Other grievances which we considered justified an official protest were:

(1) The unsatisfactory way in which the proprietors of Corobin effected compensation for the sudden reduction of price of its product.

(2) The substantial reduction in price of some of Potter & Moore's novelty lines (Gondolas, Aladdin Lamps, etc.) without allowance of sufficient time for retailers to clear their stocks.

(3) The inaccuracy of many of the bottles and jars supplied by A.G.M.

(4) The fact that many of the preparations in the P.M.S. Formulary bear the same titles to similar, but not exactly, the same preparations as in the A.P.F. This system of nomenclature, we consider, tends to unnecessary confusion.

Regarding (2) it is gratifying to report that Potter & Moore have recently made satisfactory adjustment to all claimants in this district.

In June a special Sunday afternoon meeting was held to enable us to meet Mr. Eric Scott (Federal President of the Guild) and Mr. Ross (Federal Merchandising Manager), who were making a quick tour of parts of N.S.W. in order to acquaint as many Guild members as possible with some details of the negotiations then in train with the Federal Government for a new P.M.S. agreement. The visitors were accompanied by two members of the State Branch Committee, Messrs. Strang and Leece. This Zone Branch affirmed unequivocal support for and confidence in our leaders in these protracted and delicate negotiations.

In January we received a visit from Mr. Orion Leggo (Honorary Merchandising Supervisor), Mr. Feller (Chairman of the Trade and Commerce Sub-Committee of the State Branch Committee) and Mr. Alan Conolly (State Secretary). The evening was spent in discussion of the new Poisons Act and the recently-introduced Compulsory Unionism legislation. Most of us had a sense of utter confusion in regard to the multitude of regulations covered by the Poisons Act, and our gratitude is due to our four colleagues for coming from Sydney, elucidating these regulations and advising us on their implementation.

In August a party of approximately 60 ladies consisting of wives of pharmacists and pharmacists attending the Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference in Sydney spent a few hours in Katoomba while on a sight-seeing tour by motor coach. We arranged for the Mayor and Mayoress to tender a civic reception for the party at the Town Hall. Mr. Shirlow and I assisted in the welcome as representatives of this Association, and later accompanied the ladies to lunch.

In September a most enjoyable film evening followed by a supper party was arranged by Kodak Ltd. The audience numbered approximately 45, and comprised members, wives and assistants. The films were varied, and included two dealing with salesmanship. I think Kodak are to be commended on their courtesy and their enterprise. Most of those who were present at the screening are looking forward to another similar evening.

I wish to express to the other three executive officers my appreciation of the co-operation which they have always given me. It is regrettable that our Secretary, Mr. Holt, will not be eligible for re-election, as he will shortly be leaving Katoomba. He has carried out his duties efficiently and conscientiously, and will be difficult to replace. I am sure we all wish him the best of luck in his new sphere.

—J. J. Buckley, President.

**REPORT OF MEETING OF BRISBANE WATER DISTRICT PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.**

Held at B.W.D. Club, Gosford, on Saturday, May 1, at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Messrs. R. W. Vaughan, Gosford; F. J. Kevin, Gosford; J. T. Frew, Ettalong; A. P. Sourry, Gosford; J. Quinn, Wyong; A. T. Davy, East Gosford; J. M. Ware, Gosford; W. G. Meldrum, Woy Woy; Les Turton, Wyong; Peter Ferry, Long Jetty; and G. J. Greening.

The Chairman, Mr. Vaughan, declaring the meeting open, welcomed the Sydney visitors, Messrs. L. W. Smith, B. G. Fegent and A. E. Conolly.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Fegent said he wished to apologise for the absence of the President, Mr. Hall, who could not make the trip.

**Obtain Patient's Address.**

Mr. Fegent suggested that the name of the patient, together with his address, should always be recorded, so that the patient could be traced in the event of an error. Adverse publicity to a mistake in a suburban pharmacy had led P.D.L. to issue this pronouncement.

**Standards of Professional Conduct.**

A statement of professional conduct was being drawn up by the Society. Several drafts had been made. Means were being sought to introduce a penal clause. The ethical code would be no good without power of enforcement.

**Poisons Act.**

Concerning the Poisons Act and Regulations, Mr. Fegent said they contained quite a number of anomalies. He understood that the various schedules had been recast to adjust these anomalies, but he could not state a date when the new regulations would operate.

**Questions:**

Mr. Turton referred to the Regulations under the Poisons Act—"Regulations 8 and 19, did they apply to the supply of medicine supplied on a doctor's prescription?"

Mr. Conolly explained the regulations, stating that at present Regulations 8 and 19 did relate to medicine supplied upon prescription.

Mr. Turton said when he dispensed Codiphen he put on the bottle the percentage of Codeine present, that is, he conformed with the Act. He got a very smart comeback from the doctor, who inquired "What goes on?"

Mr. Turton asked if any prosecutions had been launched under Regulation 19.

Mr. Smith said that the doctors, if they objected to Regulations 8 and 19, should be able to get them cleared up, as they have representation on the Poisons Advisory Committee—three doctors, in fact.

Mr. Vaughan said, "What is the position where a child's medicine has been left at home and the child is an asthmatic? Can you supply the appropriate restricted drug for treatment?"

Mr. Fegent said, "You can do nothing. The child's mother should go to the doctor and get another prescription."

Mr. Quinn inquired, "Ephedrine mixed with other drugs, does that include the excipient? Do the words 'other drugs' include the excipient?"

The reply was, "No, you can't sell plain ephedrine tablets."

"Another thing," said Mr. Quinn, "Arsenic and Strychnine must be sold in their original containers. If a person wants a small quantity to poison rats, etc., how do you proceed?"

The reply was, "You must sell in the original container."

Mr. Quinn suggested that manufacturers be requested to pack these poisons in smaller quantities than 1 oz.

Mr. Turton, "And put the antidote on the label."

**Sulphadiazine for Dog?**

Mr. Vaughan inquired what was the position where a customer said, "Fifty Sulphadiazine tablets for my

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## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

dog." Would this permit the supply of tablets as for  
veterinary use?

Mr. Conolly said the regulations were not very  
explicit, but the supply of a restricted drug for veter-  
inary use would have to be clearly established.

"Resale of Thallium," inquired a member, "what do  
you have to do?"

Answer: The person purchasing the Thallium must  
sign the Poisons Register.

A member said, "Anthisan—the creams?"

Reply: They are cautionary drugs, and must be so  
labelled. Refer to Schedule 1 Third Part.

"Kwells—over the counter, can you sell them?"

Reply: If not more than 12 in the pack. They must  
be labelled in accordance with Schedule I, Part III.

It was mentioned that Vasano could not be labelled  
in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

"Elixir Benadryl—must you cancel the prescription?"

"Yes, there is no limit in this case."

Mr. Smith raised the question of whether there should  
be limitations or not.

The meeting considered there should be limitations.

Mr. Sourry inquired: "Is it possible to get a summary  
of all requirements under the Act and Regulations?"

Mr. Smith said it was no use trying to do this until  
the new regulations were gazetted.

### Advice of New Acts and Regulations.

Mr. Vaughan said that pharmacists did not receive  
copies of Acts and Regulations until long after they  
became law. "Could the Guild supply members with  
copies of Acts and Regulations for a fee? A body like  
the Guild was watching all the time."

Mr. Meldrum suggested that Acts and Regulations  
should be published in the "Gilseal News" or the Guild  
Service Bulletin. Or if this was not possible, publish  
the fact that the Regulations have been gazetted. Then  
chemists could order them if required.

Mr. Quinn inquired, "With the signing for Thallium,  
do you need a witness if you know the purchaser?"

Reply: "No, not if you know the purchaser."

Relating to First Aid, Mr. Fegent cautioned zone  
members to be careful. A report on the position regard-  
ing damages would appear in the April issue of "A.J.P."

Mr. Greening inquired, "Is a new Thomas Table to  
be printed, containing the new dispensing fees and the  
new container prices?"

### Industrial Matters.

Mr. Smith said: "I will open up on the industrial  
front. Employees over 18 years of age should join a  
union. It is your duty to see they do so. There is a  
£100 penalty. Have current awards displayed where  
they are accessible to employees."

Mr. Meldrum inquired: "Where do you write for  
awards?"

Mr. Smith: "The A.P.A. Building, 53 Martin place,  
Sydney. Send in 5/- to the Department and ask for  
the current award, plus variations from time to time.  
You want two awards—the Chemists (State) and the  
Apprentices Award. Don't forget your wages book for  
your employees to sign."

The question was asked if a pharmacist employs a  
girl, full time, on clerical work, does she count as an  
unregistered assistant?

Reply: "No, she would be paid under the Clerical  
Workers Award."

Mr. Fegent said that the Society Council had looked  
into the position, and it was not possible to form a  
Chemists' Union for registered assistants.

Mr. Smith said the Guild would resist formation of  
a Chemists' Union. It would not assist in creating a  
frankenstein monster which would devour you.

Mr. Smith inquired, "Is there a public hospital here?"

Reply: Yes. Mr. Greening is the visiting pharmacist.  
He goes to the hospital three times per week. It was

stated the hospital had 37 beds. Out patients ten a day. All work was done by the visiting pharmacist.

Mr. Smith then referred to the provisions of the law under the Dangerous Drugs Act and Regulations.

#### Government Work.

"We have got to be careful in Government work," said Mr. Smith. "The Government will not stand stock mixtures."

#### Extemporaneous Dispensing.

Mr. Sourry inquired the position about Mist. Paraffin et Phenolphthaleini, also Mist. Aluminium Hydrox. Should these be prepared extemporaneously?

Mr. Smith: "They won't keep."

Mr. Sourry: "You said in the 'Bulletin' that dispensing should be done extemporaneously. How would you wash and test Mist. Paraffin et Phenolphthaleini, Mist. Aluminium Hydrox. in the time available?"

Mr. Vaughan: "There is no time to make these up freshly."

Mr. Fegent said with Ung. Methyl. Sal. there was an ounce price shown in the P.M.S. D.D. Tariff with a simple ointment fee. That surely could be taken out of bulk.

Mr. Quinn inquired: "Ung. Hyd. Ammon., if 1 oz. is ordered, you should be able to take it out of a stock jar and charge a simple dispensing fee."

Mr. Meldrum said that no one in the district could dispense Mist. Aluminium Hydrox. extemporaneously.

Mr. Fegent: "Place it on S. list."

Mr. Sourry said that if a sample taken was correct, notice should be given to the pharmacist of that fact.

Mr. Smith: "That will be done in future."

After further considerable discussion on Pharmaceutical Benefits, the meeting terminated at 6 p.m.

#### NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER RIVER VALLEY PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.

##### Report of Meeting Held in the Private Annex, Esplanade Hotel, Newcastle, on May 2 at 10 a.m.

**Present.**—Messrs. N. A. Lewis, Belmont; Samuel B. Morris, Hamilton South; J. D. Tucker, Swansea; M. N. Morris, Bar Beach; J. J. Truscott, Waratah; F. C. Giles, Mayfield; J. Hickinbotham, Maitland; E. O. Snelling, Maitland; J. David, Cardiff; P. D. Giles, Mayfield; V. C. Giles, Mayfield; F. V. Callen, Carrington; V. Smith, New Lambton; S. Hibbard, Newcastle; J. Vidler, Belmont; C. M. Steward, Wallsend; D. B. Draffin, Stockton; S. R. Wheeler, Wallsend; J. H. Lee, Dungog; J. Horn, Raymond Terrace; W. S. Burfitt, Newcastle; Tom H. Evans, Cessnock; David Leisher, Newcastle; H. A. Wallace, Newcastle; J. M. Borthwick, Adamstown; F. H. Evans, Cessnock; S. H. Evans, Cessnock; N. F. Ellis, A. R. Walden, Mayfield; and J. Scott, Newcastle.

Declaring the meeting open, the Vice-President, Mr. N. A. Lewis, expressed his regret that the President, Mr. A. J. Defina, was absent due to illness in hospital.

Mr. Lewis welcomed from Sydney three executives—Messrs. B. G. Fegent, L. W. Smith and A. E. Conolly, stating they had brought with them stop press news.

Mr. Fegent then addressed the meeting. He tendered an apology for the Society President, Mr. Hall.

**Library.**—Library books could be sent out to members of the Society by post. A library list was available, and copies had been sent to the various zones.

**Statement of Professional Conduct.**—Mr. Fegent said that rules of professional conduct were being drafted again, after the first draft had been made.

**Screening of Films.**—The Hunter Valley area was fortunate in that it could readily obtain films for screening by various firms. Reckitt & Colman had recently screened films. The Society had arranged for a mer-



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## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

chandising lecture to be given on June 16, and Professor Thorp would deliver two lectures—"Some Aspects of Pharmacy Overseas" and "Recent Advances in Pharmacology"—on August 18.

**Presentation of Registration Certificates.**—For the first time in New South Wales graduates had been presented with their Certificates of Registration at a ceremony held in the Stawell Hall of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. The Society and the Pharmacy Board had jointly arranged the function at which the Minister for Health, Mr. M. O'Sullivan, had presented the certificates.

**First Aid Treatment.**—P.D.L. had obtained leading Counsel's opinion concerning the chemist's liability when performing first aid treatment. Information was published in the "A.J.P." (April, 1954, issue). "Render only first aid," said Mr. Fegent, "particularly in respect of eyes. Be very careful."

**The Chairman inquired, "Any questions?"**

Mr. Tucker asked Mr. Fegent to amplify his statement in regard to rendering only first aid.

Mr. Fegent said that first aid treatment was laid down by St. John. "Do not stitch a wounded leg. If a person is haemorrhaging, put on the tourniquet and get him away as soon as possible. Do only emergency treatment. I am sorry I cannot be clearer."

### Training of Apprentices.

Mr. Draffin inquired if, in the training of apprentices, a record should be made in the book of work done which was not compulsory.

Mr. Smith said, "You are only required to comply with your legal obligations. Don't write in extra work in the book."

Mr. Borthwick inquired if copies of First Year Apprentices' lectures could be obtained.

Mr. Fegent said, "Yes. Write to the Secretary. Apprentices could also become associates of the Society."

In reply to Mr. Borthwick, Mr. Smith said that there was now a complete list of the books, etc., which the master and the apprentice were obliged to have, to teach the apprentice properly.

### Transfer of Country Apprentices.

A member referred to the difficulty in placing country apprentices in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Smith said there are a large number of apprentices at the present time—about 600 in the two years. However, country apprentices have always been transferred in the end.

### New Pharmacy Course: Old Chem. School.

Mr. Sam Morris inquired when the new course of training would come into being.

Mr. Smith outlined reasons for delay. He said some persons were dissatisfied with the handing over to pharmacy of the old chem. school. Government spokesmen said the matter was out of their hands and under the control of the University Senate.

The meeting then discussed for some minutes the allegation that the Sydney University was subject to political control through Government nominees.

Mr. Draffin said in Victoria training is apart from the University. "Have they more control than we?"

Mr. Sam Morris: "They restrict the entry of apprentices in Victoria."

A member suggested: "Get a Faculty and then get a representative on the Senate."

Mr. Borthwick: "The Senate is quite right. It should not be dictated to by the Government."

Mr. Fegent: "We are watching it."

#### **Apprentices: Attendance at Sydney University.**

Mr. Vidler: "Reverting to apprentices upon transfer. If an apprentice has not found a metropolitan master, can he attend the University?"

Mr. Smith: "No. The position is that you assume the responsibility to find him a master when you take him as a first year apprentice."

#### **Newcastle University of Technology.**

Mr. Peter Scott: "The northern district apprentices are attending the University of Technology here. Would they receive credit for work done in Botany and Chemistry?"

Mr. Smith: "The subject has not been discussed."

Mr. Scott: "The University of Technology would help pharmacy in this city by training first year apprentices in Botany and Chemistry. This should be recognised by the University of Sydney. In fact, apprentices should be able to do the examinations of the University of Sydney in those subjects at Newcastle."

Mr. Borthwick: "They should accept the training of first year apprentices up here. The Sydney University should give recognition to their training."

After further discussion, it was decided upon the suggestion of the Chairman that the Association should go fully into the matter at the next meeting. It should elect a sub-committee to make a thorough investigation of the subject.

#### **Compulsory Unionism.**

Concerning compulsory unionism, Mr. Fegent said it was not possible to form a separate union for registered pharmacists. There was not a ghost of a chance of forming one.

Mr. Borthwick: "Must managers join a union? The Shop Assistants' Union at Newcastle says no."

It was stated that wives, technically speaking, should join a union, as they were not members of a chemist's family in accordance with the Act."

#### **Union Activities.**

A member inquired as to power of entry by union officials.

#### **Proportion Clause.**

Concerning the Proportion Clause, Mr. Smith said that the current award expired in May. The Guild was lodging application for a new proportion clause, similar to that in the Shop Assistants' Award which provided a proportion of one junior to one senior.

#### **Award Matters.**

Concerning awards, Mr. Lewis said, "Is it possible to pay a fee and get regular copies of the awards?"

It was stated that an awards service was available in Newcastle from the Department of Labour and Industry for the sum of 4/- per year.

#### **Poisons Act.**

Mr. Fegent said, "Each body has made similar representations to the authorities concerning amendment of the Regulations under the Poisons Act. A sub-committee has met, but I do not know if it has made recommendations yet to the Poisons Advisory Committee. I don't know if the P.A.C. has met."

Mr. Fegent then gave details of the constitution of the Poisons Advisory Committee. It had been rumoured that the new Regulations would be available shortly. However, the Pharmacy Board had not had that information.

Mr. Fegent invited questions.

Mr. Smith said he had been reluctant to send out printed material attempting to explain the Poisons Act and Regulations. The Guild was preparing a synopsis of the Act and Regulations, and this would be published.

#### **Restricted Drugs—Permissible Limits.**

Regarding permissible limits, Mr. Smith said that some said there should be no permissible limits. Some



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## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

said there should be permissible limits. Clarification was also needed concerning veterinary supplies.

Mr. Lewis: "A person went to a doctor for Dexedrine. He got a script for 25 repeat 100 times."

Mr. Fegent: "That is quite legal."

Mr. Lewis: "Can we charge a poisons fee?"

Mr. Smith: "This matter will be discussed by the State Branch Committee."

A member: "Can an apprentice sign the D.D. Register?"

Mr. Fegent: "No. The new type of register makes this plain."

Mr. Borthwick: "It is ridiculous that you must keep the poisons cupboard locked when you are using poisons all day long."

A member: "Is action being taken against the medicos where they fail to carry out the provisions of the D.D. Act or Poisons Act?"

Mr. Smith: "That is not our concern."

(At this point the meeting adjourned for lunch at the Esplanade Hotel.)

Upon resumption Mr. Smith addressed the meeting.

### Pricing Department.

"Sketchy information had been sent out in the Guild Service Bulletin concerning the proposed Pricing Bureau for P.B. and P.M.S. prescriptions. Three hundred Guild members had responded. The cost would be 30/- per 100 prescriptions. It was proposed to launch the scheme. Difficulty was being experienced in getting office space. The pricing service would grow, like the Bulletin had grown. There was no room at the Guild office to do the pricing. Advice would be given when the service was to start."

Mr. Lewis: "How long will it take to price prescriptions before sending them in to the Department?"

Mr. Conolly said the pricing would have to be done within ten days. The prompt pricing of prescriptions was a sine qua non, but it presented very great difficulties.

Mr. David: "Send in half the prescriptions within 14 days and the remainder at the end of the month. That would overcome the difficulty."

Mr. Conolly: "From 70,000 to 80,000 prescriptions would arrive shortly after the end of each month."

### Extemporaneous Dispensing.

Mr. Borthwick said that "to make up 2 oz. Lin. Terebinth would be ridiculous."

Mr. Fegent: "What about Mist. Aluminium Hydrox?"

Mr. Smith: "That will not keep, if you make it up."

Mr. Borthwick: "What about Mist. Paraffin c Agar. Make a winchester. Why not? I can't see anything wrong with that, but according to the instructions in the Bulletin, we should make up scripts extemporaneously."

Mr. David: "I want to make a suggestion. We all want to be honourable men. With Mist. Aluminium Hydrox, and Mist. Paraffin et Phenolphthaleini, why not put them on S Group? I would feel very annoyed if I was brought up before the Committee on those two counts. I suggest, ask for them to be put on S Group."

Mr. Lewis suggested that inquiries should be made whether Lin. Terebinth, Mist. Aluminium Hydrox, and Mist. Paraffin c Agar had to be dispensed extemporaneously or whether they could be supplied from stock.

### Disallowed Prescription.

Mr. Borthwick: "If you send a P.B. script in, and it is not endorsed 14A, it comes back, stamped 'disallowed'. Can you send that prescription back to the doctor for him to add 'written in accordance with Regulation 14A',

or should the doctor write another prescription altogether?"

Mr. Tom Evans and Mr. John David raised similar questions.

It was decided to make inquiries as to the correct procedure with disallowed P.B. prescriptions.

Mr. Hickinbotham: "Can public hospitals dispense prescriptions for outpatients? P.M.S., I mean."

Answer: "No."

#### Channelling.

Mr. Lewis referred to the problem of channelling of P.B. prescriptions.

Mr. Conolly then read to the meeting the provisions of Section 89 of the National Health Act designed to correct the practice of channelling. The Act would come into force on May 12.

Mr. Lewis: "We took it up with Mr. Jewkes. He said the chemist is approved to dispense, not the doctor."

#### P.M.S. Prescriptions.

A member said: "If a doctor writes a P.M.S. script including an item which is not a B.P. drug, is it correct to ring it and mark the prescription 'not included per doctor'? Will they pay for it then?"

Mr. Conolly explained that the Department would not permit prescriptions to be written containing non-B.P. drugs, as this would extend the scheme ad infinitum.

Mr. Vidler: "Will both the British Pharmacopoeias be used under the Pensioners' Scheme in future?"

Mr. Conolly referred to Sections 84A and B of the Act which stated that the current B.P. should be used.

It was decided to make inquiries upon this point from the Government Department.

#### Stilboestrol not a P.M.S. Benefit.

Mr. Tom Evans: "It is hard on pensioners. They are not allowed to have Stilboestrol, as it is a P.B. item controlled by Regulation 14A. They cannot get it at all."

Another member said Stilboestrol could be prescribed for pensioners under the P.M.S. scheme.

It was decided to make inquiries upon this point from Mr. Kelleher.

A member said doctors had been advised they can prescribe Stilboestrol under the P.M.S.

Mr. Hickinbotham: "You cannot supply SVR to pensioners under the P.M.S."

Mr. Fegent: "No, it cannot be prescribed on its own." A voice: "They might drink it."

#### Bureau of Statistics Surveys.

Mr. Conolly gave some details of the surveys, and requested members always to return forms which were sent to them.

Mr. Vidler: "The old P.M.S. average was 7/6 per script."

Voice: "No, no."

Mr. Borthwick: "Don't let us get back to the old flat rate."

#### Merchandising Month.

Mr. Conolly referred to the recent Ipana Month and the following Akta-Vite Month, and inquired the opinions of zone members towards them.

Mr. David supported the continuance of merchandising months. Chemists should display the product selected for the month.

Mr. Vidler also supported the innovation, saying, "Pick out one each month. They should not be lines in direct opposition."

It was also suggested that a month be held for "Nada".

Other suggestions were P.D.'s "Purple and Gold Series," "Dexsal" and "Relaxa Tabs".

Members all supported the Guild's activities in selecting products for respective merchandising months.

Mr. Conolly said he had been unable yet to secure figures regarding the Ipana Month.

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## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

Mr. Borthwick said pharmacy generally is on the "up," but it is not due to the P.B.'s.

### Maitland's Super-service.

Mr. Hickinbotham said that Maitland was a pharmaceutical paradise regarding hours. He gave details of the excellent pharmaceutical service provided for the populace of the City of Maitland. A continuous service was well organised.

Mr. Borthwick: "I would not close on Saturday night."

Mr. Smith: "If you did, it would not make any difference to your turnover."

Mr. Borthwick: "I dispensed 22 prescriptions last Saturday night."

Mr. Smith then gave details of the urgent pharmaceutical service established by the Guild for the metropolitan area through police stations.

### Constitution of Local Association.

Mr. Lewis inquired as to the constitution of the local pharmacists' association. "Was it a district in accordance with the constitution and rules?"

Mr. Fegent said the zone was formed to take in all pharmaceutical personnel, not master pharmacists only.

### Repat. "Repeats."

Mr. Hickinbotham: "What's in this Repat. business—the letter which came round?"

Mr. Walden: "Part of the trouble was in the repeats. The new system will stop that."

Mr. Hickinbotham gave details of difficulties which he had experienced with repeats.

### H.C.F. and M.B.F.

Mr. Draffin: "The Hospital Contribution Fund and the Medical Benefits Fund, what about them?"

Mr. Conolly said they would certainly not increase the commission unless forced to do so.

Mr. Smith: "I put it to you. Are you prepared to surrender the work—to down tools?"

Most of those present signified they would down tools.

At this point, the Vice-President, Mr. Lewis, thanked Mr. Smith, Mr. Fegent and Mr. Conolly for attending, and asked Mr. Draffin to propose a vote of thanks to them.

### Conclusion.

Mr. Draffin said: "I am very pleased to move this vote of thanks. We have gained a tremendous amount of information today, and we do not feel so frustrated. Members of the zone are extremely grateful to you for coming to us periodically with all the latest news and information."

Mr. Smith said that on behalf of the State Branch Committee he appreciated the kind words spoken. He personally did not feel a sense of frustration. The difficulties encountered did not sear his soul. He got great satisfaction in achieving success for the Guild. When victory was attained he looked upon it as another scalp for the Guild.

Mr. Fegent said on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society he thanked the speakers for their kind remarks. The President, Mr. Hall, would be up later in the year.

Mr. Conolly said "Thank you," and referred to the excellent work performed by the zone's acting Secretary, Mr. Samuel Morris. The zone had gone ahead by leaps and bounds, and was extremely active in all aspects. This was very largely due to the live Secretary, Mr. Sam Morris, who trod on everybody's corns, but got things done.

Voces: Hear, hear!

Mr. Conolly also expressed his wishes for the prompt recovery of the zone President, Mr. Defina, who was in hospital.

The meeting concluded at 5.30 p.m.

## PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

### Annual Meeting

#### 78th Annual General Meeting.

Report of the 78th Annual General Meeting of members of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, held at Science House, 157 Gloucester street, Sydney, on Wednesday, March 31, 1954, at 8 p.m.

Present.—There were 70 members present.

Chairman.—The President, Mr. E. G. Hall.

Notice Convening the Meeting.—Resolved that the Notice convening the meeting be taken as read.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings.—The President referred to the provisions of Article 53, and stated that he had perused the minutes of the preceding annual general meeting, held on March 31, 1953, and that he had also perused the minutes of the adjourned annual general meeting held on November 19, 1953, and he proposed to sign both as a correct record.

It was resolved that the minutes of both meetings be signed as a correct record.

Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Accounts.—In moving the adoption of the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Accounts, the President referred briefly to the various items mentioned in the Annual Report. Once again there was an increase in membership.

The Refresher Lectures, 1953, had taken a different style, being on business subjects, and had served a useful service.

The Medico Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee continued to function satisfactorily.

The Annual Dinner had been a social success.

The Pharmacy Ball, 1953, was held in conjunction with the Pharmaceutical Conference, which indeed marked a milestone in achievement over the years.

Country visits had been expanded, and were very much appreciated.

The Adelaide Conference on Education had demonstrated to the other States that New South Wales was on the right track.

Proposals for registration of persons with overseas qualifications as pharmacists had received close attention.

A number of useful points had been brought forward at the adjourned annual general meeting. Mr. G. Benjamin had been given the privilege of organising the Summer Camp, 1954.

The first open meeting of the Society Council had been held in February, a visitor being present from South Australia.

It had been decided to hold a presentation night twice a year following the final examinations. Pharmacy graduates would be presented with their certificates of registration.

Mr. Hall referred to the continued progress of the "A.J.P." and the expanded coverage of New South Wales news provided by the N.S.W. correspondent of the Journal.

The subject of standards of professional conduct had occupied the attention of Council, and a number of drafts prescribing an ethical code had been made.

The President said that before concluding his remarks he would like to express his appreciation of the assistance and whole-hearted support given by the Vice-President, Mr. B. G. Fegent, and the Treasurer, Mr. K. H. Powell, during the extremely busy year of 1953. He must also refer to the colossal help he had received from the Secretary, particularly during the Conference period. The way in which all arrangements had been carried out spoke volumes for the Secretary. Mr. Hall said these encomiums included the ladies on the staff who did a marvellous job in all respects.

Mr. K. H. Powell, Treasurer, who seconded the motion for the adoption of the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Accounts, said the expenditure for the year had been remarkably steady, totalling £4458 as compared

## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

with £4357 for the last year. The income for the year had shown an increase of about £250. This was mainly due to the increasing membership of the Society, which now stood at 2139. The Society still had the lowest subscription rate of any society in Australia.

The Income and Expenditure Account showed an excess of payments from revenue over revenue of £102/4/3, and after carrying £184/19/9 to Reserve A/c., the balance transferred to Accumulative Funds A/c. was £287/4/-.

The General Purposes Reserve now stood at £2741/13/- Investments totalling £2595/10/- on General A/c. were held in Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock. Liquid assets totalled £2809/6/1. In addition there were the assets held in respect of the three bequests.

### Discussion of the Annual Report.

Mr. E. B. Pollard inquired for details of the new course of training.

Mr. Wright said that the Government had voted money for new buildings. The University had appointed a Committee to investigate the manner in which the new course could be implemented. It appeared to be now "just a case of time."

Mr. H. D. B. Cox said he deeply regretted the resignation of Mr. Shineberg. Mr. Cox said there had been a tremendous improvement in the volume and quality of news from New South Wales published in the "A.J.P." as the result of Mr. Conolly's appointment as correspondent. He fulfilled this function better than it had ever been carried out before. It had been a wise step in getting Mr. Conolly to take it up.

Mr. Williams inquired: What is the percentage of membership of the Society to those pharmacists registered?

Mr. Conolly said that membership of the Society was voluntary. It had never been the policy to tout for membership.

Mr. Williams said he did not suggest pressing non-members to join the Society.

Mr. C. M. Audley, of Dulwich Hill, said he would like to add his meed of praise concerning the excellent reports in the "A.J.P." Mr. Audley thought that local men should be sought to contribute articles of a scientific nature in the "A.J.P."

Mr. Lowrey inquired what had been done concerning the establishment of standards of professional conduct.

Mr. Hall said that a Committee had been set up to draw up an ethical code which would be presented to the Council in a couple of months' time.

Mr. Lowrey inquired why reports of meetings of the Medico Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee were not published in the "A.J.P."

Mr. Hall said confidential matters were discussed, and it would not be the correct thing to publish minutes of such meetings.

Mr. Wilkinson, Summer Hill, said that an unregistered pharmacist or assistant was liable to a fine for selling a restricted drug. Unregistered people could be penalised.

Mr. Hall said the whole of the Poisons Regulations were being reconsidered.

Mr. Harding said, having sat through last year's Refresher Lectures, he considered they were more suitable for other bodies in pharmacy. Concerning the open Council meeting, those who attended had learnt something. More would have attended if greater publicity had been given to the open meeting. Mr. Harding then referred to the registration of aliens.

Mr. Leggo said he congratulated the Council on its year's work under Mr. Hall's captaincy. The condensed report did not reflect the mammoth amount of work done during the year. Mr. Leggo conveyed his sincere congratulations to the Council. They had been through a very heavy year indeed.

Mr. Hall said, "Thank you for your remarks. We appreciate them."

Mr. Williams said that the Guild was represented on the Poisons Advisory Committee, but not the Society. Had the Society noted this?

Mr. Hall said they had more than noted it; the Minister did not appoint a Society representative. Protests had been lodged, but nothing had been forthcoming.

The motion for the adoption of the Annual Report Balance Sheet and Accounts was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

**Programme for 1954.**—Mr. Fegent gave a concise survey of the programme which had been planned for 1954.

**Election of Councillors.**—Mr. Hall read the result of the poll taken by postal ballot, which was as follows:

G. G. Benjamin	433	J. L. Townley	492
B. G. Fegent	492	W. J. Wilkinson	198
P. I. Harding	212	B. B. Williams	265
J. F. Plunkett	448	A. F. Winterton	420
H. W. Read	532		

Mr. Hall then declared the following persons duly elected as Councillors of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales:

Mr. G. G. Benjamin, Mr. B. G. Fegent, Mr. J. F. Plunkett, Mr. H. W. Read, Mr. J. L. Townley and Mr. A. F. Winterton. (Applause.)

Mr. Harding said on behalf of Mr. Williams, Mr. Wilkinson and himself he extended congratulations to those who had been elected.



Members of the Executive of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales photographed on the night of the annual meeting of the Society at Science House, Sydney, on March 31. The President, Mr. E. G. Hall, is in the Chair. On his left are Messrs. B. G. Fegent (Vice-President) and K. H. Powell (Treasurer). The Secretary of the Society, Mr. A. E. Conolly, is on Mr. Hall's right.

## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

**Election of Auditor.**—Resolved that Messrs. Holt and Thompson be reappointed as Auditors for the ensuing year.

**Scrutineers.**—It was resolved that Messrs. J. F. Plunkett and G. G. Benjamin be elected as Scrutineers for the forthcoming year.

**Prizes.**—The President then presented prizes to the winners as follows:—

1. Society's Materia Medica Prize: Miss D. Paling.
2. Society's Prize for First Year Botany Students: Mr. J. F. Gurr.
3. Elliott Prize for 1953, shared between: Mr. V. A. Bryant, Mr. A. J. O'Shea.
4. Kodak Prize, shared between: Mr. C. L. C. Powell, Mr. L. C. T. Woods.
5. The Ray Dodd Memorial Prize, First Year Apprentices' Examination. 1st Prize: Miss B. Felton. 2nd Prize: Miss M. Shirt. 3rd Prize: Mr. J. M. Eckert.
6. McCrory Medal: Mr. I. R. Cummings.



Mrs. N. Ranger, winner of the Society's Materia Medica Prize.

### Presidential Address.

The President, Mr. E. G. Hall, then delivered his Presidential Address entitled "To Better Pharmacy." [Published "A.J.P.", April 30, 1954, p. 370.—Ed.]

At the conclusion of his address the President was complimented upon it.

### Address by Mr. K. G. Attiwill, Federal Director of Public Relations.

Following his introduction by the President, Mr. Attiwill said he was extremely pleased to be able to embrace the opportunity to attend. In some States sneers were levelled at the Societies—"They have run their course." This did not apply to the New South Wales Society, which was active and virile, steered along by young men who gave up their time to the Society's affairs.



Mr. J. F. Gurr, winner of First Year Botany Prize.



Mr. Ian R. Cummings, awarded the McCrory Medal for Dispensing.

Mr. Attiwill said he applauded the country visits carried out in sensible liaison with the Guild.

Mr. Attiwill said he had listened with deep interest to the plan constructed by Mr. Hall; out of it could come nothing but good for pharmacy. "Reverberations following Mr. Hall's address will extend over a considerable area."

Over the last seven years Mr. Attiwill said it had been his task to sell the good name of pharmacy up and down the Commonwealth. He had always based his arguments upon the high professional standard of pharmacy.

With the introduction of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme a tremendous responsibility had been thrust

## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

upon the chemists. The chemists must realise that they had no divine right to practise pharmacy; their labours were in the service of the community.

Mr. Attiwill said he had undertaken to write for the Journal a double series of articles—one series dealing with contemporary leaders in pharmacy, the other to deal with pharmacy in the cities and provinces. Month by month would appear biographical sketches. Sydney was crammed with material of interest. (Applause.)

### Survey of the Year's Work of the Science Group.

Mr. West then presented a survey of the year's work of the Science Group.

### General Business.

Mr. Benjamin said it was not proposed to venture into a full-scale summer camp at first, but to start off with a short weekend. The weekend camp would be held at a Teachers' College Training Camp at Castlereagh on September 25 and 26. Castlereagh was well known, with suitable amenities available and a capacity of 80 people.

Mr. Audley invited Society representatives to a function to be held in May by the Dulwich Hill Association.

Mr. Wilkinson inquired if the Gayfer Bequest Essay Competition was limited as to length.

Answer: No.

Mr. Williams submitted the proposal that the Society should establish liaison with the manufacturers in relation to the employment of pharmacists. He explained that extemporaneous preparations made in the pharmacies were decreasing; preparations were made by the big firms instead. Notwithstanding this, it was not easy for a pharmacist to get a position in a manufacturing firm.

After further discussion it was decided to look into the point raised by Mr. Williams.

Mr. Lowrey, referring to the President's address, said, "You mentioned editorials. Did you mean my editorial?"

Mr. Cutler said the Presidential Address was usually received and not made the subject of debate.

Mr. H. D. B. Cox said Mr. Hall's address deserved searching examination. The opportunity should be made at some time to discuss it in detail.

Mr. Cox referred to a dispensing error which had been given much publicity. The name of the patient and address should always be obtained.

Mr. Cartwright supported Mr. Cox's suggestion. It would overcome unfortunate happenings. There was no need to use radio stations or the police.

It was decided to publish the warning issued by P.D.L.

Mr. Harding inquired if members of the Society in general could attend the presentation ceremony.

Mr. Hall said the graduates and their parents and friends would have first priority, but if there was sufficient room, members of the Society generally could attend.

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. A. R. Penfold had received a high award in the United States of America for his notable research in essential oils.

It was decided that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr. Penfold.

At this stage Mr. Cartwright said he would like to extend a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the very able way in which he had conducted the meeting, and also to thank him for his thought-provoking address.

In support, Mr. Winterton said not everybody knew the hive of industry in Mr. Hall; there was never a dull meeting. He wished him many more years in official pharmacy.

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Hall expressed his thanks for the remarks made, and declared the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

## PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETING.

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales met at "Science House," 157 Gloucester Street, Sydney, on April 12, at 7.45 p.m.

**Present.**—Messrs. E. G. Hall (President), J. L. Townley, A. W. West, A. F. Winterton, H. W. Read, B. G. Fegent, K. H. Powell, J. F. Plunkett, G. G. Benjamin and K. A. Cartwright.

Mr. Hall welcomed back Mr. J. L. Townley who had returned from a holiday visit to New Zealand. He also welcomed back to the Council table the six councillors who had been re-elected. This showed the confidence members of the Society had in them and in the Council as a whole.

### Election of Office Bearers.

**President.**—Mr. E. G. Hall was nominated. There being no further nominations, Mr. Hall was declared duly re-elected as President for the ensuing year.

Thanking councillors, Mr. Hall said he appreciated their action in re-electing him as President. Last year, the Conference took up about six months' of the year's available time. He hoped to get really into top gear this year.

**Vice-President.**—Mr. B. G. Fegent was nominated and there being no further nominations, was declared re-elected as Vice-president.

**Honorary Treasurer.**—Mr. K. H. Powell was nominated and there being no further nominations, was declared re-elected as Honorary Treasurer.

### Election of Sub-Committees.

**Ethical, Educational and Library.**—Resolved that the same persons as last year be re-elected, plus Mr. G. G. Benjamin. The sub-committee to consist of: Messrs. E. G. Hall, B. G. Fegent, K. H. Powell, J. F. Plunkett, H. W. Read, S. E. Wright and G. G. Benjamin.

**Legislative.**—Resolved that the sub-committee consist of: Messrs. E. G. Hall, W. R. Cutler, J. L. Townley, K. A. Cartwright, B. G. Fegent and K. H. Powell.

**Social.**—Resolved that the sub-committee consist of: Messrs. E. G. Hall, B. G. Fegent, K. H. Powell, J. F. Plunkett, J. L. Townley, plus Mr. A. F. Winterton.

**Finance.**—Resolved that the sub-committee consist of members of the Executive.

**A.P.F. Revision.**—Resolved that the sub-committee consist of Messrs. H. W. Read, A. F. Winterton, S. E. Wright and A. W. West, with power to co-opt.

**Reviewal of Honorary Members.**—Honorary members were re-elected as follows:

Professors H. R. Dew, C. E. Fawcett, J. C. Earl, C. G. Lamie, Harvey Sutton and R. H. Thorp; Doctors E. M. Watson, Adrien Albert, Roy Gardner, Bryan L. Stanton; Messrs. F. C. Bennett, E. Cheel, C. Delany, P. E. Cosgrave, E. F. Lipsham, A. W. McGibbons, A. R. Penfold, R. B. Scammell, A. T. S. Sissons, L. J. Thompson, W. Davies, David Dunn, E. E. Nye, Leonard Rayner, F. C. Kent, J. Shineberg and Miss D. K. Large. Also Messrs. P. T. Knapton, A. H. Newth, W. J. MacArthur and A. Rogers.

**State Liaison Committee.**—It was stated that the President and Vice-President of each organisation represented that organisation on the State Liaison Committee, plus the Federal Delegate for each Federal organisation. Adopted.

**Medico-Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee.**—Pharmaceutical representatives on this committee comprise Messrs. E. G. Hall, W. R. Cutler and J. L. Townley.

**New Members Elected.**—Arnold Coleman Davis, Sydney; John Alfred Haydon, Griffith (Canberra, A.C.T.); John Frederick Ernest Illingworth, Manly; Alec Levine, Bondi; Donald Morrison, Sydney; Judith Beryl Robbins, Punchbowl, and Peter Thrift, Ashfield.

**Reinstatements.**—Hugh Calderwood Malcolm, Moorebank; Charles David Wineberg, Port Kembla.

**Advanced to Full Membership.**—Francis Joseph Mackay, Earlwood.

## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

**Associate Members.**—John Colin Chapman, Desmond James Donovan, Audrey Margaret Hansen, Charles John Hearne, Margaret Julia Lovett, Madalena U. Mandorff, Kevin Maurice Mulqueeney, Anne Therese Shannon, R. W. Smith.

**Pharmacy Bill 1954.**—Mr. Hall gave details of the Bill which provided for the registration of persons holding overseas qualifications. Mr. Hall said the Bill could have been a lot worse. It had "stetted" the position, at least. The applicant must do an examination in practical pharmacy and must also serve in a pharmacy for one year.

In reply to Mr. Townley, Mr. Hall said that the Bill did not fix a date of expiration of the provisions of the Bill.

**Honour Board.**—Mr. Fegent said the list was now down to 29 persons, subject to checking. It was not the prerogative of the R.S.L. Sub-branch to question the final few upon their eligibility.

**Presentation of Certificates.**—Mr. Hall said that all arrangements had been made. An invitation had been sent to each candidate who had been successful at the Final Examination of the Pharmacy Board, inviting him to attend the Stawell Hall for presentation of his certificate.

**Filing with Registrar-General of Special Resolutions.**—It was resolved that the Special Resolution passed at the Special General Meeting, be filed with the Registrar-General.

It was further decided that the increased Associate Membership fee should be enforced as from January 1, 1955.

**Refresher Lectures, 1954.**—The secretary said the number of subscribers totalled 20 at present.

Mr. Read said that the screening of films had been arranged. P.D.'s would screen "Chloromycetin" and also "Therapeutic Research," plus another film in lighter vein, "Catching of Cod Fish," or some other film, perhaps.

**First Year Apprentices' Lectures, 1954.**—Mr. Hall said that Mr. Gostelow would be commencing the lecture series.

It was decided to invite to the first lecture the President of the Pharmacy Board, the President of the Guild, the President of the Society and the President of the S.U.P.A. to address the apprentices before the lecture commenced.

**Annual Dinner, 1954.**—The secretary said that Florida House had been booked for the night of Thursday, June 17. The matter of the menu and list of guests was referred to the executive.

### Country Visits.

**Report of Visit to Wagga and Albury.**—The secretary reported briefly on both visits. Mr. Hall also submitted a verbal report on the two visits. A written report would be circulated later.

It was decided to enquire whether the P.M.S. formula should be used when Mist. Gent. Alk. was prescribed on a pensioner's prescription without any definite indication of a formula.

**Gosford/Newcastle—May 1 and 2.**—It was decided to write to Mr. Kevin, of Gosford, concerning the meeting at that town on May 1. Mr. Fegent said the Newcastle meeting would be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Newcastle Beach, on May 2.

Mr. E. G. Hall was appointed to represent the Society at the Gosford meeting and also at the Newcastle meeting.

**Lecture by Professor Thorp at Newcastle.**—Mr. Fegent said the lecture would be delivered on Wednesday, August 18. Professor Thorp would repeat the two lectures he was giving as part of the Refresher Course.

**Merchandising Lecture at Newcastle.**—Mr. Fegent said this lecture would be given on June 16. Mr. Morris had booked the Chamber of Manufactures Hall for the lecture.

**Merchandising Lecture at Bathurst.**—Mr. Fegent said that Mr. Blomfield had sent out preliminary notices convening the meeting for May 2 at Bathurst.

**Summer Camp, 1954.**—Mr. Plunkett enquired if wives and children could attend the camp at the week-end. Mr. Benjamin said that wives and children could be accommodated.

**Rules of Professional Conduct.**—Mr. Read said that in his address to the annual meeting, the President had made the proposal that steps be taken straight away to enforce rules of professional conduct. He agreed in principle, but thought that the effort should be made to incorporate rules of professional conduct in the articles of association. The committee should meet again and discuss the proposed rules.

Mr. Fegent said that when a sub-committee proposed to meet, it should inform the executive of that fact.

After further discussion, it was decided that the ethical sub-committee should meet before the next Council meeting to discuss rules of professional conduct.

**Correspondence.**—Mr. K. Attiwill, drawing attention to undesirable newspaper publicity about drugs and potent substances. Suggesting that an early meeting be arranged by the State Medico Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee to discuss ways and means of controlling this type of publicity. Received.

Mr. P. E. Cosgrave, asking the Society if it requires any assistance for the presentation ceremony to be held at the Stawell Hall. Offer of assistance accepted with thanks.

Mr. D. M. Lowrey, Sydney University Pharmaceutical Association, setting out reasons why he considers the Society should hold its ball in conjunction with the pharmacy students as a combined ball. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Benjamin should discuss with the S.U.P.A. Committee the exact proposal for a combined ball, and then report back to the Society Council.

Miss J. E. Bailey, stating she has finished University course and is working as an unregistered assistant, but now wishes to become an Associate member. To be advised that she is not eligible for Associate membership.



A section of the audience at the first lecture delivered by Professor Thorp in the Stawell Hall on May 10.

## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

Mr. K. Attiwill, attaching cutting following publicity given to garage hours in N.S.W. concerning a complaint in Victoria that a man had been unable to obtain the services of a doctor on a Sunday night. Suggesting that we must not provoke newspaper comment when handling questions relating to emergency service by chemists. Agreed.

The meeting terminated at 11.00 p.m.

### MAY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales met at "Science House," 157 Gloucester Street, Sydney, on May 4, at 7.45 p.m.

**Present.**—Messrs. E. G. Hall (chairman), K. A. Cartwright, A. W. West, H. W. Read, W. R. Cutler, B. G. Fegent, K. H. Powell, G. G. Benjamin, S. E. Wright, J. L. Townley and J. F. Plunkett.

**Federal Delegate—Federal Council of Pharmaceutical Societies.**—Moved Mr. Powell, seconded Mr. Fegent, that Mr. W. R. Cutler be and is hereby appointed as Federal Delegate to the Federal Council of Pharmaceutical Societies.

**Additional Representative on the Federal Council of Pharmaceutical Societies.**—It was resolved that the additional representative be the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales for the time being.

**Applications for Membership** were approved as follows:

**Full Members.**—Francis Reginald English, Petersham; June A. Jenkins, Lakemba; Geoffrey Cecil Middleton, East Maitland; Dallas William Murdock, Taree; Ronald Frank Morison, Harbord; John Barry Prentice, Ashfield; Denis Michael Reeves, Wollstonecraft; Phillip James Syme, Gordon; John Dodge Tucker, Swansea, and John Scott, Bondi.

**Advanced to Full Membership.**—Bernice Jocelyn Bryant, Ashfield; Basil Charles Griffin, Marrickville; Edward Alfred Loomes, Bexley; Neil Arnold Macindoe, Taree; Keith Mackie Mitchell, Balgowlah; Donald William Gordon Simpson, Griffith; Mary Louise Walker, Hunter's Hill; Warren Holmes Weston, Neutral Bay; John Michael Smith, Mudgee, and Denise Joan Marsden, Cammeray.

**Associate Members.**—Margaret Joan Farlow, Charles Thomas Grimwood, Brian Arthur Hill; Arthur Joseph Schwärer, Margaret Rose Simon, Alan Wright Swift, Denis Edwin Winch.

**Honour Board.**—Mr. Fegent said that the list of names was being typed for checking in certain respects.

**Presentation of Certificates.**—Mr. Hall said that from reports received the function had been quite well appreciated. Regarding the next presentation of registration certificates, this could be arranged one month after the results were available—towards the end of September, 1954. Prizes which could be presented with the certificates were the final prizes, e.g., the Kodak Prize, the Elliott Prize, the McCrory Medal (if awarded).

Mr. Hall suggested for the next ceremony an oration by some notable person. It was decided to place the matter on the agenda for next month's Council meeting.

**Refresher Lectures, 1954.**—The secretary said 88 subscribers had enrolled to date. Mr. Read said he had secured a third film—"Avulsion of the Scalp."

It was decided that the President should open proceedings and then hand over to Mr. Read.

**First Year Apprentices' Lectures, 1954.**—The secretary said 45 apprentices had enrolled to date.

Mr. Hall produced a letter from Mr. Freeman of Guildford, who wanted the lectures to be delivered at night time. It was decided to reply that this was impracticable.

**Annual Dinner at Florida House, June 17.**—It was decided to publicise the dinner in the various trade journals.

Mr. W. R. Cutler was appointed Master-of-Ceremonies. Toasts to be proposed by Messrs. Fegent and Powell. The matters of menu cards, music, liquor, etc., were left to the executive for attention.

**Country Visits.**—Mr. B. G. Fegent and the secretary reported on the visits to Gosford and Newcastle.

Mr. Fegent said that both meetings had been well attended and both were interesting and lengthy. Written reports would be circulated in due course.

**Visit to Goulburn, August 1.**—It was noted that this would be the next visit.

**Kodak Prize No. 2.**—Mr. Wright suggested that the prize should be awarded for general proficiency shown throughout the whole pharmacy course at the university. Resolved accordingly.

Mr. Cutler said that Kodak (A'asia) Pty. Ltd., had decided to award another Travelling Scholarship valued at £1000.

**Rules of Professional Conduct.**—It was stated that no opportunity had been found for the ethical committee to meet since last meeting. However, a meeting would be convened within the next 28 days.

Mr. Fegent said that at both Gosford and Newcastle meetings, members were behind the suggested rules of professional conduct, containing provisions for enforcement—plenary powers to be taken.

**Christmas Function, 1954.**—Mr. Hall said the room where the dinner had been held last year had been redecorated and it would be in great demand. It was decided to make a pencil booking for the Christmas Function, 1954.

**Correspondence.**—Registrar-General's Department, Sydney, referring to special resolutions and advising the document has now been filed.

Parke, Davis & Co. Ltd., re refresher lectures. Mr. Charles B. Hill, manager of the sales office, will be present and will be pleased to answer any questions on the evening of May 31.

Mr. John G. Moon, Lismore, asking for information on the duration, incubation period and infective time of various infectious and contagious diseases of children. Stating that this information often sought from pharmacists and suggesting the Society prepare a suitable list in tabulated form for distribution. It was resolved that a suitable list be prepared as requested by Mr. Moon.

Mr. David M. Lowrey, President, S.U.P.A., setting out the reasons why the students favour amalgamation of the Society's Annual Ball and the Students' Ball. Mr. Benjamin to contact the S.U.P.A. concerning this matter.

Mr. K. Attiwill, forwarding copies of letters concerning suggestions that Mr. Attiwill keep in contact with the editor of the N.U.P.S.A. Magazine—for information of the Society Council. Received.

Pharmacy News Bulletin No. 14 (April, 1954), re maintenance of highest standards of service under the free medicine contract. Noted.

Report prepared by the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, giving distribution and wastage of qualified personnel in pharmacy. Received.

Mr. D. Lowrey, President, S.U.P.A., stating that their past president received an invitation to address the first year apprentices on May 25 and that he, Mr. Lowrey, is now president, but assumes it would be discourteous for him now to accept. However, if the Society desires him to attend he would be honoured. Resolved to advise Mr. Lowrey that the Council would be very pleased for him to attend and address the first year apprentices on May 25.

**"Gilseal" Infra-Red Lamps—Sales Promotion Campaign.**—Mr. Cutler said that members would have received the brochure concerning the sales promotion campaign for "Gilseal" infra-red lamps. The proposal

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## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

cut right across what the Society stood for. No member of the Society should co-operate or participate in the campaign. A protest should be lodged with the Merchandising Supervisor. "Gileal" lamps should be hired on medical recommendation only.

Mr. Read said P.D.L. had issued a warning about the danger inherent in the use of infra-red lamps.

Mr. Hall said there is the ethical angle to look at, apart from the physical danger.

Mr. Wright said: "Here you are treating pain. Pain is often the first indication of something serious."

Mr. Cutler then moved (seconded by Mr. Read) a motion putting on record the Society's views in the matter.

Mr. Cutler was accorded authority to draft his resolution in precise form, and it was decided that a copy of the resolution, together with a supporting letter, should be sent to the Guild Merchandising Supervisor, all members of the State Branch Committee of the Guild with a copy to the Federal Director of Public Relations (Mr. K. Attiwill).

**P.M.S. Dispensing.**—Mr. Cartwright said that at a meeting of the Dulwich Hill Association held recently, information had been requested concerning the use of stock mixtures in P.M.S. dispensing. Was it permissible to keep ready prepared, a preparation containing a soluble salt with a dry powder, like BMS.

Answer: Yes.

The meeting also enquired whether it was possible to obtain an accurate list of the poisons controlled under the regulations to the Poisons Act.

It was resolved to write to the Director-General of Health, pointing out that the existing schedules are causing confusion in pharmacy as they are difficult to interpret and asking the Director-General of Health to expedite the gazettal of the new regulations containing the amended schedules as soon as possible.

The meeting terminated at 11.00 p.m.

## THE GUILD

### S.B.C. Meeting

A special meeting of the State Branch Committee of the New South Wales Branch of the Guild was held at "Science House," 157 Gloucester Street, Sydney, on May 3, at 8 p.m.

**Present.**—Messrs. L. W. Smith (chairman), W. F. Pinerua, R. W. Feller, R. S. Leece, O. C. V. Leggo, P. Lipman, J. N. Young, K. Jordan, K. E. Thomas and W. G. Sapsford.

**Welcome to Mr. Attiwill.**—Mr. Smith extended a hearty welcome to Mr. Attiwill. Mr. Attiwill said he was delighted to have the privilege of attending the meeting of the State Branch Committee.

**New Members Elected.**—Arnold Davis, Sydney; Frederick Flanagan, Temora; Eleanor Frances Forbes, East Albury; Herbert Joseph Goldman, Rose Bay East; Basil Vincent Hayes, Annandale; John Alfred Haydon, Griffith (Canberra, A.C.T.); Ian Murray Hicks, Lithgow; Aileen Mary Lethe, Randwick; Colin N. Nakkan, Rosebery; John Emmett O'Shea, Haberfield; Peter Norbert Walsh, Miranda; Eric Craig Morgan, Kogarah, and John Denis Maher, Marsfield.

**Reinstatement.**—Lawrence Lozelle Eastmuir, North Sydney.

Resolved that Mr. Eastmuir be reinstated as a member of the Guild.

**Alteration in Status.**—Estate of late C. M. Smith—Now: Challoner's Pharmacy, Dubbo. H. M. Sherlock—Now: Estate of late H. M. Sherlock, Braidwood. P. A. Sivyer—Now: Estate of late P. A. Sivyer.

**Address by Mr. K. G. Attiwill, Federal Director of Public Relations.**—Mr. Attiwill then addressed the meeting in relation to the following matters:

**Federal Election.**—The Guild knew no party politics but it stood by its original principles.

**Consolidated Health Act.**—Mr. Attiwill said that in September last he had begun a series of visits to Canberra and had been constantly in touch with Mr. Smith, Mr. Leggo, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Conolly, of the New South Wales Branch, as well as with the Federal Executive and all Federal delegates.

**Reason for Visit to New South Wales.**—Mr. Attiwill said he had paid the current visit to New South Wales because it had been a long time since he had the opportunity to visit the men in the field due to long prevailing circumstances. The present opportunity had presented itself when he had received an invitation from the Society to attend the ceremony of presentation of certificates to pharmacy graduates. Under the Secretariat's charter, as director of Public Relations, he had authority to visit any part of Australia. He had been given a note of hand from Mr. Leggo which he had produced on all occasions and had been received with spontaneity. Crystallising the objects of the visit, they were:

1. To ascertain the general feeling of Guild members towards the Guild.
2. Federal Election matters.
3. A proposed Guild magazine.
4. Biographical and historical articles which he was writing for "The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy."
5. The subject of resale price maintenance.

**Impressions of Country Visit.**—Mr. Attiwill said his impressions gained in the field were—great loyalty to the Guild; appreciation of the Federal Council; unity on Federal decision; satisfaction with the State Branch Committee and pleasure at the joint country visits. Countrymen felt the Guild could do no wrong. They spoke of it in superlatives. There was a complete absence of interstate jealousy. Members felt a warm regard for the personnel of pharmacy. They realised the Guild had done an enormous amount of work for them.

**Guild Magazine Project.**—At the Federal Council meeting held in October, 1953, it had been decided to use Victoria as a "guinea-pig" to investigate the proposal put to the Federal Council that the Guild should sponsor a high level magazine of general interest to the community. The production would need to be on a basis comparable with the best magazines at the bookstalls. A questionnaire had been sent out to Victorian Guild members on general principle. The replies were overwhelmingly in favour of the project. The idea was not new—a magazine in U.S.A. was originally given away by the chain stores. The whole matter would have to be gone into carefully. Once Guild members had assented to the project, a firm undertaking would have to be given regarding circulation. Guild chemists would have to say beforehand the number of copies of the magazine they would take. The cost of the magazine would be met from advertising. It was an ambitious plan. The next step was that Federal Council would have to decide whether on the results of the Victorian survey it would proceed to the next stage—draw up a budget with the printers and present it to Federal Council in October next. The decision would then be made whether to proceed with the project.

Mr. Leggo requested that all data (questionnaires, letters, circulars, results, etc.) to be forwarded to the State Branch Committee table so the matter could be discussed. Mr. Attiwill agreed to do so.

Returning to a discussion of his experiences in the field, Mr. Attiwill said that the Northern Rivers chemists had been impressed by Mr. Keith Thomas' visit to Lismore. The Grafton chemists were dissatisfied at publicity given in newspapers to the supply of veteri-

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# VITAMIN E IN MEDICINE

**BUTTURINI U.** Treatment of Dupuytren's contracture with a-tocopheryl acetate. *Minerva. Med.* **41**, 1235-7 (1950).

Of 6 cases with Dupuytren's contracture, 5 had completely favourable results with resolution of the fibrosclerotic process, and 1 case had partial improvement. Treatment consisted of oral administration of 100 to 300 mg. tocopherol daily for 3 to 6 months or longer.

**DEGRACIANSKY P. and BOULLE S.** Treatment of sclerosus hypodermitis of the legs with tocopherol. *Bull. soc. franc. dermatol. syphilig.* **57**, 213-4 (1950).

Ten of 13 patients treated with vitamin E, 300 mg. of tocopherol daily for 60 to 100 days, were definitely improved. Collagenous infiltration stopped, ulcers healed, pliability of the skin and subcutaneous structures returned, and adhesions disappeared. Improvement usually occurred by the 15th day, but in some patients 4 to 6 weeks were required. Oral administration was preferred because intramuscular injection induced undesirable local reactions.

**KESSLER M. M.** Vitamin E therapy in treatment of myopathies. *J. Med. Soc. New Jersey* **48**, 164-5 (1951).

Traumatic myositis (22 cases) yielded most satisfactory results. Improvement occurred within one or two days. Treatment consisted of vitamin E applied topically with or without diathermy. Tenosynovitis (3 cases) also showed improvement in three days. Acute cases of bursitis (3 cases) showed prompt reduction of swelling and increased range of motion. Fibromyositis (28 cases) was favourably influenced by tocopherol treatment; spasm and pain were reduced, and also time lost from work was about halved compared with results of conventional treatments. Patients with arthritis (5 cases) and sciatica (2 cases) were also benefited. Subsequent experience with vitamin E indicated that oral administration plus topical application was superior to topical treatment alone.

**CRANE J. E.** Treatment of multiple sclerosis with fat-soluble vitamins, animal fat and ammonium chloride. *Conn. State Med. J.* **14**, 40-1 (1950).

Administration of 200 mg. tocopherols daily, in addition to other fat-soluble vitamins and fat supplements, markedly improved the condition of 18 of 24 patients with multiple sclerosis. Five patients showed no improvement, and one became worse.

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## NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

nary preparations through Pasture Protection Boards—call at the P.P. Board or local store.

Mr. Attiwill agreed to communicate with Mr. R. G. Ross on this subject.

**Newcastle.**—Mr. Attiwill said he was interested at Newcastle to be told of the wide membership of the coalfields' pharmaceutical association which had recently changed its name. The association had got no overriding policy. The after-hours service at Maitland was excellent. Doctors wrote on the prescription the name of the chemist on duty and the time the prescription would be available.

The meeting terminated at 11.5 p.m.

## VICTORIA

### PERSONAL and GENERAL

*State News*

Members in Victoria desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Editor (FJ 5161).

**Mr. S. G. Hale** has arranged to leave Melbourne on July 4 on the "Strathmore" for an extended trip abroad.

**Mr. E. M. McCann**, who qualified in 1951, will be opening a pharmacy at 19 Southern Road, West Heidelberg, about July 12.

**Mr. L. M. Wilson and Mrs. M. E. Wilson** (nee Merle White) have opened a new pharmacy and professional rooms at Lorne. Their pharmacy at Apollo Bay is at present being managed by Miss Yvonne Fidge.

Congratulations are extended to **Mr. Allan Edward Hands**, of McDonald Street, Murtoa, on his appointment as a Justice of the Peace for the Western Baillie-wick. Notice of his appointment appeared in the Victoria Government Gazette of May 19.

**Mr. J. N. Blyth** has accepted an appointment as Pharmacist Grade I for six months at the Darwin Hospital, prior to proceeding to Western Australia for missionary service. He will be accompanied by his family. Mr. Blyth has just completed a three months' linguistic course with the Wycliffe Bible Translators, and intends to undertake translation work amongst the aborigines. He expects to be stationed in the Kimberley region.

### WEDDINGS.

The marriage of **Miss Marion Isobel Ramsay**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Ramsay, of Mildura, to **Mr. Laurie Thompson**, engineer, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Hector Thompson, of Kew, took place recently. Mr. K. Strangward was the best man, and the bride was attended by her sister Janet. Miss Marion Ramsay qualified at the Victorian Final Examination in February, 1952. We offer our congratulations.

At Scotch College Chapel on May 1, the marriage of **Miss Alma Eason**, Ph.C., to **Mr. Daryl T. Davis**, Ph.C., was celebrated. Miss Eason's three cousins acted as bridesmaids. The groomsmen were Mr. Owen Eason, brother of the bride, Messrs. Barry Dean, Ph.C., and Harry Davies, Ph.C. We extend our congratulations.

On April 30, at Scotch College Chapel, the marriage of **Miss Pauline Richards**, of East Malvern, to **Mr. David E. Mann**, of Camberwell, was celebrated. Mr. Mann passed the Final Examination in September, 1953. Mr. J. L. Blyth, who is also a pharmacist, was best man.

**MANAGERS AND RELIEVERS: MAY LIST.**

<b>Manager or Reliever.</b>	<b>Pharmacy.</b>
Miss V. Adamson ..	Pardey & Co., Geelong.
Miss V. Adamson ..	J. G. Bloore, West Brunswick.
W. Barber .. . . .	J. I. Isaac, Sandringham.
M. G. Barr .. . . .	W. L. Hilyard, Collingwood.
M. G. Barr .. . . .	R. M. Bailey, Malvern.
N. Bertram .. . . .	L. F. X. Egan, Coburg.
L. Benporath .. . .	Miss C. L. Cameron, West Footscray.
L. Benporath .. . .	J. M. Daly, Ormond.
V. Bowen .. . . .	H. J. Wake, Mgr., Miss B. A. Edwards, Sunshine.
V. Bowen .. . . .	L. J. McDuff, U.F.S., Disp., Sunshine.
R. Boylen .. . . .	D. J. Worland's Pharmacy, Collingwood.
Miss D. Caldwell ..	N. D. Myers, Thornbury.
C. O. Carter .. . .	L. Romeo, Queenscliff.
G. B. Chappill .. . .	L. F. X. Egan, Coburg.
P. M. Davey .. . . .	V. J. Archdeacon, Clifton Hill.
P. M. Davey .. . . .	A. E. Portbury, Coburg.
P. M. Davey .. . . .	U.F.S. Dispensary, Collingwood and Fitzroy.
H. E. Edwards .. . .	Mrs. O. G. Powell, Port Fairy.
R. M. Edwards .. . .	Bull & Owen (W. Wishart), Geelong.
Miss Y. Fidge .. . .	R. H. Sutton, Portland.
Miss Y. Fidge .. . .	P. Dickason, East Bentleigh.
A. Grant .. . . .	Ludbrook's Pharmacy, Horsham.
F. A. Guenther .. . .	A. H. Mansell, Glenferrie.
K. R. Hall .. . . .	G. Hutcheson, Kyabram.
B. C. Hornby .. . .	P. J. Winch, South Melbourne.
B. L. Jacobson .. . .	J. Ray, Gardiner.
B. L. Jacobson .. . .	R. T. Benton, Alphington.
B. L. Jacobson .. . .	G. E. Hayes, Croydon.
B. L. Jacobson .. . .	S. F. Byrnes, East Preston.
H. M. Jones .. . . .	I. R. Keelan, Yarraville.
H. M. Jones .. . . .	E. F. & A. M. Hayes, Heidelberg.
H. M. Jones .. . . .	C. L. Drury, Glen Iris.
Miss I. Kapper .. . .	G. S. Milne, Bourke St., Melbourne.
M. Kerby .. . . .	G. I. Heilbronn, Sunshine.
T. King .. . . .	J. Daly, Essendon.
T. King .. . . .	C. S. Whytcross, E. Brighton.
H. N. Lemmon .. . .	G. H. Ross, Mansfield.
N. B. Lloyd .. . . .	K. E. Hartley, Warragul.
Mrs. McIntyre .. . .	Wallis & Son (A. L. Hull), Toorak.
Miss M. McMartin ..	H. R. Luker, Horsham.
I. F. Moller .. . . .	T. W. Procter, Warburton.
Miss D. Morter .. . .	A. V. E. Coates, Melbourne.
W. M. Morton .. . .	S. W. Howell, Yarrawonga.
Miss G. Morris .. . .	J. B. Hollow, North Fitzroy.
S. Morrison .. . . .	G. W. Siebler, Abbotsford.
J. Napoli .. . . .	C. S. Bowen, Mildura.
Miss E. M. Panther ..	Miss I. Matchett, Heidelberg.
G. Rogers .. . . .	U.F.S. Dispensary, Preston.
A. Shaw .. . . .	H. C. Heenan, Edenhope.
Miss M. Smith .. . .	A. V. E. Coates, Melbourne.
Miss M. Smith .. . .	A. Skewes, East Kew.
Mrs. L. M. Sumner ..	R. Eymer, Thornbury.
Mrs. L. M. Sumner ..	R. N. Dorien, Mitcham.
R. A. Vanstan .. . .	Cunningham's, North Melbourne.
J. W. Weir .. . . .	V. J. Gild, Melbourne.
A. G. Westlake .. . .	C. H. Semmens, Sandringham.
A. G. Westlake .. . .	A. G. Hosking, Elsternwick.
C. L. Williams .. . .	A. T. Tizio, Richmond.
C. L. Williams .. . .	K. E. Hartley, Warragul.
J. V. Winson .. . .	J. L. Larsen, Highett.

**BUSINESS CHANGES.**

**Mr. J. E. Clementson** has opened branch pharmacies at 411 Bell Street, Preston (with Mr. D. Jones as manager), and at 132b Wood Street, East Preston (Mr. J. Delzoppo, manager).

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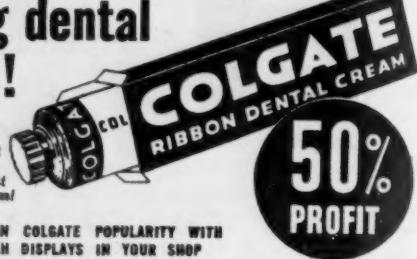
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AGENTS ..... SYDNEY

## VICTORIA (Continued)

New Pharmacies have been opened at the addresses indicated:

Mr. F. H. Hodgson, at 908 North Road, East Bentleigh.  
G. G. & R. C. Bird, at 379 Belmore Road, Box Hill North.

Mr. G. S. McNeill has taken over Mr. G. B. Speirs' pharmacy at Euroa.

Mrs. W. M. Quinton (nee Jones) has purchased Cochran's Pharmacy, Malvern, from Mr. E. C. Hughes, who has retired.

Mr. A. F. Frederiksen has taken over Philpots & Coakley's Pharmacy, Castlemaine.

Mrs. G. K. Ibbot, who has been managing for Mr. J. W. Pitney at Ascot Vale, has now purchased the pharmacy.

### NEWS FROM MR. J. G. MANNING—KODAK TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER.

Mr. J. G. Manning, present holder of the first Kodak Travelling Scholarship, in a letter from London dated May 25 reports that he has succeeded in gaining the Diploma of Biochemical Analysis following an examination conducted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain at Chelsea. At the time of writing he was looking forward to visiting Denmark to attend the Scandinavian Pharmaceutical Conference at Copenhagen. After that his plans include inquiries in Switzerland and Germany.

### DEATH FROM ASPIRIN POISONING.

In the Coroner's Court, Geelong, on March 31, the Deputy Coroner, Mr. N. V. Johnson, found that Charles N. Essex, 35 years of age, of the Shell Hostel, Corio, had died from an overdose of Aspirin tablets.

Evidence was given which indicated that Essex had taken 12 packets of Aspirin tablets. Leo W. Quinn, Assistant Manager of the Hostel, said that when called to the room Essex told him he had taken 14 packets.

It was estimated that in all 378 tablets had been taken.

Dr. Reid said the post-mortem examination suggested a corrosive acid type of poisoning. The Aspirins would be sufficient to cause death.

### HOSPITAL BENEFITS ASSOCIATION ANSWERS CRITICISM.

According to a press report, a spokesman of the Hospital Benefits Association has announced that the Association will be able to meet all of its claims within four weeks after the end of June.

There has been much criticism—public and private—of delays which have occurred in settling claims submitted to the H.B.A. The Association has admitted inability to deal with all claims immediately upon receipt, delay being due to the phenomenal increase in membership following the reorganisation of the Association to cope with the Federal Government's medical benefits plan.

The Assistant Director (Mr. Anson) stated that the Association had received a tremendous flood of new members. This, coupled with a shortage of staff, had caused delays of 13 or 14 weeks in dealing with claims. Staff had been increased from 50 to 116. These new staff members had to be trained, but now the Association felt it was over its teething troubles.

### ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICES FOR PHARMACY.

The annual church services organised by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society were held on May 30 at St. Paul's and St. Patrick's Cathedrals.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, a strong representation of pharmacists attended Mass which was celebrated by the Chaplain to the Catholic Pharmacists' Guild of Victoria (Rev. Fr. D. O'Connor, S.J.).

At St. Paul's Cathedral, where there was an attendance

## VICTORIA (Continued)

of approximately 500 members, including relatives and friends, the lessons were read by the President of the Pharmacy Board (Mr. H. A. Braithwaite) and the Acting Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria (Mr. E. Scott).

Rev. C. M. Kennedy in his sermon said it was fitting that members of a craft or profession should come as a recognisable body for worship together.

"Whatever a man's work is, it has an immediate relevance to his religious faith," he said.

"There is no work which men can be called upon to do which God is not already Himself doing, ever at work as the supreme tender of all living things."

This great truth raised all human crafts and professions to a new dignity, and gave them a value far beyond the mere earning of a living.

### R.S.S.A.I.L.A. VICTORIAN CHEMISTS' SUB-BRANCH Anzac Dinner.

The now popular Anzac Week dinner was held this year at the Mitre Tavern Hotel on April 21.

Those who gathered at the appointed time were soon deep in "shop talk" (why is it, that when two or more chemists are gathered together they will talk "shop"? ) good food and refreshments. However, as the evening progressed "shop" dropped into the background and most conversations began with: "Do you remember . . .?"

We were pleased to receive a telephone call from Charlie Taylor at Ballarat, to tell us that he was thinking of us, but that he couldn't make the trip. Thanks, Charlie!

Members were able to have a "pre-view" of Mr. R. G. Hoare, of I.C.I., whom, we understand, was given his first taste of Melbourne hospitality at our dinner. He had only a couple of hours earlier arrived from the U.K. via New Zealand and other ports, such as Sydney.

We are sorry to report that the evening ended in some confusion as the door of the Mitre was slammed hard on the heels of the slowly departing guests.

May we suggest to those whom we didn't see the other night, that they make a note on the date pad NOW, to come along to the Xmas dinner in December. We'll remind you again in plenty of time.

### WATCH CALVES CLOSELY FOR BLOOD SCOURS.

"Blood Scours" has been affecting many calves in Gippsland this autumn. Some four to nine-months-old calves have died, and others have been badly set back in their growth. The condition, known as "coccidiosis," is caused by a bowel parasite, and it seems to have been brought on by the break in the season.

If affected, your calves will show a constant passing of manure. This is accompanied by intense straining, which makes them hold their tails out continuously. In the manure you will see extra mucus and streaks of blood, advises Mr. G. A. Letts, Veterinary Officer of the Department of Agriculture at Leongatha.

"Blood Scours" is infectious and strikes very suddenly. Therefore, watch your calves closely and act immediately at the first sign of straining. The treatment is simple, and is effective if given at once.

Drench the calves with one ounce of tincture of iodine in a bottle of skim milk. They will drink this readily. You can buy 5 gram tablets of Sulphamezathine. Two of these crushed in water or milk and given for three days will often hasten recovery. In addition ring your local Department of Agriculture Office and tell the Veterinary Officer of the outbreak.

If your calves are healthy, then try to keep them that way. Provide them with a dry, well-sheltered paddock, avoid overcrowding, and dose them for worms.

Calves which die represent a serious loss of time and money you have spent in rearing them, so watch them closely for blood scours.—"News Bulletin" No. 512, of the Department of Agriculture, Victoria (25/5/54).

### WAGES.

The latest amendment to the Wages Award provides the following rates operative from the first pay period in May, 1954:

	Apprentices			Juvenile Workers (Female)	
1st year	50/6	16	years	16	6
2nd year	67/-	17	years	73/6	
3rd year	91/-	18	years	81/-	
4th year	112/6	19	years	98/6	
5th year	165/6	20	years	113/-	

	Other Employees		Male	Female
Manager	£18	15	0	£15 15 6
Chief Pharmacist	17	8	6	14 9 0
Registered Ph. Chemist	16	2	6	13 3 0
Unregistered Assistant	13	15	0	10 15 6
Shop Assistant (over 21)			—	9 13 0

White Coat Allowance — Male or Female, 4/-.

**Relievers.**—One who relieves for not less than three consecutive working days and not more than two months is entitled to a loading of 7½ per cent. plus a holiday allowance of 1/25th of the total wage. This makes the rates for **Relieving Managers**:

Male — £20/19/3 Female — £17/12/9

Outside the metropolitan area first class return fares plus a board allowance of 12/6 per day if for less than one week and £3 per week for longer periods.

**Casuals.**—Any person other than a reliever who works less than the full number of hours fixed for an ordinary week's work shall be paid the appropriate rate plus 20 per cent. loading for the first 20 hours, and then 7½ per cent. loading for any hours beyond 20 in any one week. (This rule re loading for casuals does not apply if the employee is not willing to work a full week.)

### DISCUSSION GROUP.

On May 12 at the College of Pharmacy, the largest audience to date listened intently to Mr. H. A. Braithwaite, President of the Pharmacy Board, who led a discussion on Dangerous and Specified Drugs.

Mr. Braithwaite opened the discussion by giving a brief outline of the Medical Act, Part III, and then proceeded to elaborate on the various important duties of the Pharmacy Board, stressing that this body was mainly responsible for the protection of the public by maintaining a high standard of ethics and service.

He then spoke on the Poisons Act and said that, despite what might be thought to the contrary, the Act was very sound, as it had been moulded on the British system and had rectified some obvious anomalies of that system.

Mr. Braithwaite said as examples of likely additions to Poisons Schedules, a chemical named "Chlordane" was soon to come under the Fourth Schedule, although preparations containing less than 2 per cent. when appropriately labelled would be sold openly. It was also proposed that Dicumarol and Coumarin would come under the second part of the Second Schedule. However, preparations containing not more than .1 per cent. and appropriately labelled as rat poisons would be exempt.

Mr. Braithwaite then gave a very detailed analysis of the Dangerous and Specified Drug Regulations, stressing the importance of the drugs being kept in a locked cupboard, and the key or keys being kept at all times in the hands of qualified members of the staff of the pharmacy. He emphasised the necessity for careful entries in the Dangerous Drugs Register, a regular physical check of the drugs, and the responsibility of the pharmacist to see that all prescriptions presented to him for dispensing conformed to the regulations.

Questions were invited, and Mr. Braithwaite's very informative replies, with at times a touch of humour, were a source of great interest to the large number of people in attendance.

## VICTORIA (Continued)

At the end of the discussion Mr. Geoff. Leete, on behalf of the Discussion Group Committee, thanked Mr. Braithwaite for his excellent address, which was followed by sustained applause. He also thanked the large number of people present for their attendance.

### Next Meeting.

In order to maintain the high standard of these Discussion Group meetings, on the next occasion, on Wednesday evening, June 9, the guest speaker will be the Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Mr. A. T. S. Sissons, who promises to unfold some hitherto unrelated information on his very extensive trip abroad in 1953.

### MR. AND MRS. IVAN THOMPSON IN BRITAIN.

Mr. Ivan J. Thompson, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, and Mrs. Thompson arrived in London after a pleasant voyage in the "Strathmore." They lost no time in setting out for the many sights that wonderful old city, London, has to offer.

In a letter written to Mr. Eric Scott from London Mr. Thompson says:

"Well, here we are in London—and what a place it is! Masses of people on the streets, pavements, diving in and out of the Underground, and this endless, never-ceasing run of cars and buses in all directions. It is just amazing and fascinating.

"Many of the landmarks—St. Paul's, Westminster, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross—I could still recognise, and the 38 years [Mr. Thompson was a member of the First A.I.F.] passed seemed only yesterday. Lyons teashops, A.B.C., etc., are also well remembered. But looking at the ruins and the bombed areas, going down into the Underground, the home of these people for so many years, you have nothing but the deepest admiration for a people who took such a thrashing and defied the beast of all times.

"Down in Sussex I read the opening chapters of Chester Wilmot's last book, and was more prepared for my revisit to London; but once again these people are the salt of the earth, and deserve far better conditions than prevail today.

"Well, first my visit to Bloomsbury Square. The first surprise was at Tilbury, when a note came aboard to inform me that F. W. Adams was there to meet me. All the way from Pinner, 15 miles the other side of London—and a biting cold day into the bargain! We had hired a car for Forest Row [where Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have friends], so after a short discussion set off for the Square, where we dumped three cases for our return to London. We then went to the Russell for luncheon, finally setting off for Forest Row about 3.30 p.m. The Clarks were really joyful upon our arrival, and we soon settled in most happily. We stayed with them the first week, and as I went up to London to take delivery of the car, we were able to take them both on many of our Sussex tours, and they are coming to Cambridge to tour East Anglia with us next week.

"On our return to London I went to call upon Messrs. Adams and Fitch (Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain), and in the Council Room we all had a good yarn on current topics, particularly your visit which undoubtedly left a deep impression.

"I have been invited to the annual meeting tomorrow night, refreshments beforehand, and the next day to the annual meeting of the Branch Representation.

"Saturday was just another cold day, but a glorious outing up to Ware, in Hertfordshire, warmed us completely. There we visited Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Maplethorpe, and were just in time for the television of the Queen's return. So we were all glued to the screen until Her Majesty was safely in Buckingham Palace. After tea we had a tour of the locality, and so in the fall of the evening saw some really lovely country, so

green and fresh in the early spring. Eventually dinner at Stevenage, and home at about 11.30 p.m. Most enjoyable.

Allen & Hanburys have a big factory at Ware—over 1000 employees and more buildings to be erected.

Writing from London on May 20, Mr. Ivan J. Thompson, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, reported that he attended the Annual Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, also a meeting of Branch Representatives, in May. Mr. Thompson found the experience exceedingly interesting, and made many notes of procedure, etc. Two matters which interested him particularly in the discussion were Pharmaceutical Education and reports regarding after-hour trading.

Mr. Thompson reported that he and Mrs. Thompson were well, and thoroughly enjoying their experiences abroad. They have been invited, as guests of the British Society, to attend the British Pharmaceutical Conference at Oxford in September.

## PHARMACY BOARD

### Monthly Meeting

The Pharmacy Board of Victoria met at 360 Swanston Street, Melbourne on May 12, at 10.20 a.m.

**Present.**—Mr. H. A. Braithwaite (President), in the chair; Messrs. S. J. Baird, A. W. Callister, W. R. Iliffe, N. C. Manning, A. W. McGibbony, W. Wishart, F. C. Kent (Registrar) and T. G. Allen (Minutes Secretary).

**Correspondence.**—Correspondence submitted to the Board included the following:

To the Department of Health, forwarding for approval proposed amendments to the 7th Schedule to the Poisons Act 1928.

To the Secretary, Department of Health, transmitting recommendations for amendment of Regulations (examination fees), adopted at the previous meeting.

From two pharmaceutical chemists, forwarding declarations regarding accidental losses of drugs.

From the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia, enclosing copy of letter from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, outlining conditions re acceptance of qualifications of Maltese pharmacists.

From Department of Health, advising that Proclamations amending the Fourth Schedule and Regulations relating to paints, crayons, etc., containing lead and arsenic were published in the Government Gazette of April 14.

From a company, requesting a period of time for disposal of silver cleaning preparation containing Thiourea not labelled as specified by the Board. Approximate time required, two weeks. Application granted.

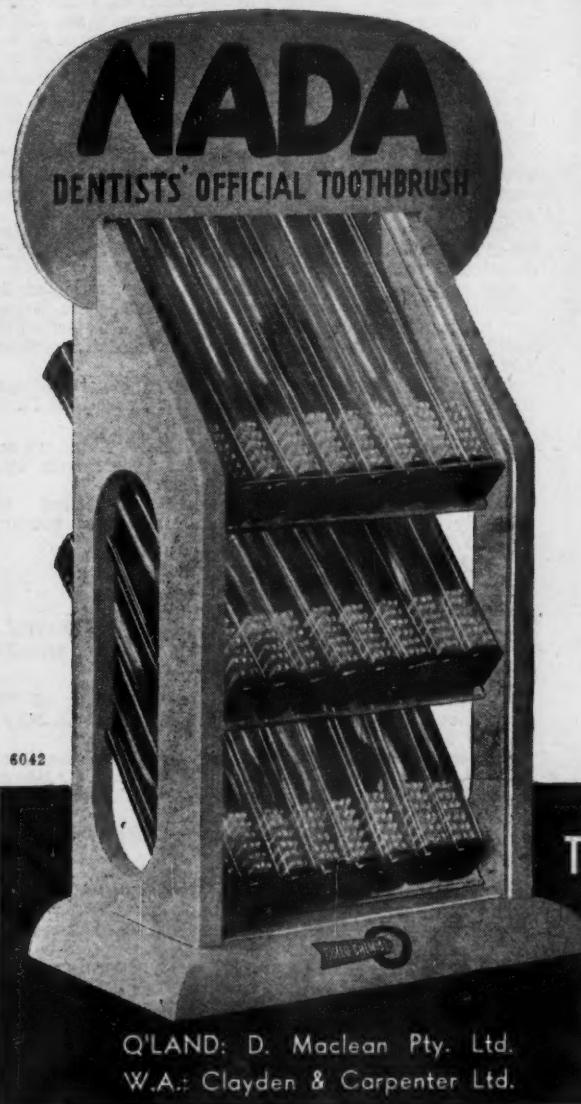
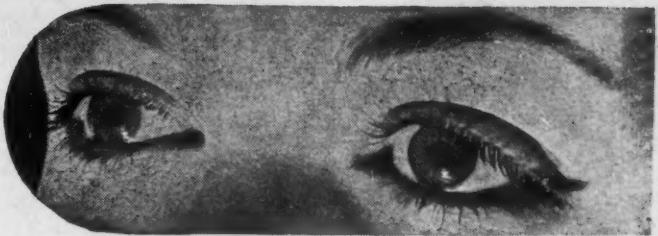
From a wholesale distributor requesting permission to use 40 oz. amber containers for foot rot paint containing Antimony and Arsenic as the regular 40 oz. poison bottle was not available. The President explained that the provisions in the Poisons Act relating to containers of poisonous substances applied to preparations containing not more than two pints. The Board considered it undesirable that plain bottles should be used for the preparation referred to and directed that a letter be sent, suggesting that the preparation be packed in 20 oz. poison bottles.

From the Executors of the Estate of late A. L. Noye, applying for permission to carry on the three pharmacies of the deceased under management of registered pharmaceutical chemists. Application granted.

A pharmaceutical chemist whose name had been removed from the Pharmaceutical Register following conviction for an offence under the Poisons Act and Pharmacy Regulations, applied for restoration of name to the Register. Consideration of the application was deferred until the July meeting.

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## VICTORIA (Continued)

From Elliotts Rural Laboratories Ltd., forwarding additional information regarding Aureomycin ointment for which they had sought exemption from the requirements of the Specified Drugs Regulations.

It was resolved that the additional information supplied be referred to members of the Poisons Schedules Advisory Panel for further consideration and advice.

From a pharmaceutical chemist whose name had been removed from the Pharmaceutical Register under Section 88 of the Medical Act, Part III, requesting that the name be restored. Application refused.

From the Surgical Instrument Section, Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, asking for conference to discuss matters relating to supply of Specified Drugs to hospitals. The President said that a meeting had been arranged for May 17 at 10.30 a.m.

From the Officer in Charge, Detective Training School, requesting the Board to arrange a lecture to recruits on the provisions of the Poisons Regulations. The matter was left in the hands of the President to arrange.

From the Veterinary Practitioners' Association, advising that a memorandum was to be sent to all veterinarians advising the fullest co-operation between the pharmaceutical and veterinary professions in matters of mutual interest. It was asked if the Board would co-operate. Resolved that this matter should be referred to the Pharmaceutical Society and State Branch of the Guild.

**Formal Business.**—The following formal business was presented:

**Applications for Registration.**—Brenda Jean Anderson, Marie Elizabeth Brady (Final Exam., Vic.).

**Restoration of Names to Register.**—Linda St. Ledger Tuomy (Mrs. L. Chandler), Valerie Vern Todd.

**Erasures from Register.**—John Hargreaves (decd. 2/5/1954), Alan Lambie Noye (decd. 19/4/54), Frederick Rex Tyler (decd. 26/4/54).

**Managers and Relievers Notified.**—48.

**New Businesses Opened.**—5.

**Business Changes Notified.**—3.

**Apprenticeship Indentures Registered.**—20.

**Apprenticeship Indentures Extended.**—1.

**Apprenticeship Indentures Cancelled.**—2.

**Apprenticeship Indentures Transferred.**—7.

**Apprenticeship Indentures Suspended.**—2.

**Certificates of Exemption Issued.**—20.

**Opium Permits Issued.**—8.

**Certificates of Identity Issued.**—4.

**Permit to Purchase Cyanide Issued.**—1.

**Licences as General Dealers in Poisons Issued.**—1.

**Licences to Sell Poisonous Substances Issued.**—8.

**Revision of Schedules.**—The President reported that Mr. Manning, after compiling a list of additions to the Dangerous Drugs Schedules to bring it into line with all the recommendations of the United Nations Organisation, had set out to prepare a composite schedule listing the drugs in a logical and rational fashion. Mr. Manning's classification would probably cover all of the items now listed under many names, in about six groups. It appealed to him as being a splendid bit of work which might be taken as a template and would simplify the reading and application of the Schedules.

Mr. Manning said the new schedule, as proposed, would include six groups, but the various drugs mentioned in the official communications and listed separately in most Schedules would all be listed in their appropriate groups, the common name of the drug being used wherever practicable.

Members of the Board congratulated Mr. Manning on the work he had undertaken.

**Amendments of and Additions to Schedules.**—Additions to and amendments of the Second, Fourth and Sixth Schedules agreed to at a special meeting of the Board held on May 5, were tabled in draft form and

were approved for submission to the Department of Health.

**Revision of Regulations and Schedules.**—A progress report on proposals for complete revision of the Second Schedule, Parts I, II and III, and the Sixth Schedule, Part II, was submitted by Mr. McGibbony, who explained the principles employed by him in re-drafting.

The President said that Mr. McGibbony's work was a very useful contribution and would be of great assistance to the Board in the overall changes it had in mind.

**Prosecutions.**—The Registrar reported that a fine of £5 with costs was imposed on an unregistered person at the Brighton Court on May 7 for illegally writing a prescription for Progesteron.

Mr. J. M. Daly, chemist, Ormond, was charged in the Caulfield Court on May 6 on four counts for breaches of the Dangerous Drugs Regulations and fines and costs totalling £157/13/6 were imposed.

**Inspector's Reports.**—A manufacturing firm which had old samples of tincture of opium made experimentally during the war, wished to destroy these stocks which were of no further use. The destruction had been witnessed by Inspector Ahern.

Several chemists reported attempts to obtain supplies of Dexadrine tablets in circumstances which they suspected were irregular, and in each case the matter was referred to the Drug Bureau.

A report that a supply house was offering Specified Drugs to private hospitals not authorised to be in possession was investigated and the Inspector's report placed before the Board.

Reports regarding investigations carried out at two medical institutes in the City were reported and action directed by the Board.

The matron of an intermediate hospital reported the disappearance of small quantities of drugs. The inspector had called and received additional information, and later the matron telephoned to say that the problem had been solved.

A report concerning the activities of gypsies alleged to be in possession of prescriptions for Dangerous Drugs was referred to the Drug Bureau.

**Examinations.**—Arrangements for the Preliminary and Final Examinations to be held during the month were completed.

**Financial.**—The Hon. Treasurer submitted the monthly financial statement and accounts totalling £487/17/5 were passed for payment. The meeting then adjourned.

## PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

*Council Meeting*

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria met at 360 Swanston street, Melbourne, on May 5, at 9.40 a.m.

**Present.**—Mr. E. Scott (Vice-President) in the Chair, Mrs. P. A. Crawford, Messrs. S. J. Baird, L. A. Hamon, A. L. Hull, F. W. Johnson, L. Long, V. G. Morleson, G. H. Williams and the Secretary.

**Correspondence.**—Correspondence submitted to the meeting included the following:

From S. Eva, Mrs. M. L. Dowling, Mrs. L. M. Hew, Miss D. J. Adams and D. K. Dargaville, submitting resignations, as they were now out of active practice. Resignations accepted with regret, and thanks expressed for past interest of these members.

From Mr. W. E. Thomson, applying for transfer to Life Members' list. The Secretary reported that Mr. Thomson had complied with all of the requirements for Honorary Life Membership. It was resolved that the application be granted and the good wishes of the Council be conveyed to Mr. Thomson.

From a member, requesting that membership dues in respect of a period during which he was absent in

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increase Sales**

Tests in this country and in America and England show that women prefer the shop where they can buy Kotex napkins easily. Much of the Kotex increased Sales in this country (17% increase against 12% other brands) have been brought about by making Kotex easier to buy, by increased advertising and by the fact that more and more women are becoming aware that far superior Kotex costs no more.

A Cough Linctus  
containing - - -  
An Adequate Sedative, Alkaline Expectorants  
Guaiacol and Aromatics

# DIACOL

Two teaspoonsful contain diamorphine hcl. gr. 1/18, guaiacol m. 5/8, potassium citrate gr. 7 1/2, menthol gr. 1/20, with other aromatics and flavouring.

Available in bottles of 2, 4 and 16 fl. oz.

In order to provide an alternative preparation to Diacol to meet the situation where heroin-containing preparations are not permitted or desired

# DIACOL - D

has been introduced. It contains ethyl morphine hcl. (dionine) gr. 1/10 in each two teaspoonsful in place of heroin hcl. Otherwise the formula is identical with that of Diacol.

Available in bottles of 2, 4 and 16 fl. oz.

Distributed by the companies comprising  
**DRUG HOUSES OF AUSTRALIA LTD.**

which include:

A. M. Bickford & Sons Limited ..... Adelaide  
Elliotts & Australian Drug Pty. Ltd. .... Sydney, Newcastle &  
Wollongong  
Elliott, Taylor Pty. Ltd. .... Lismore  
L. Fairthorne & Son Pty. Ltd. .... Launceston & Hobart

Felton, Grimwade & Bickford Pty. Ltd. .... Perth & Bunbury  
Felton, Grimwade & Duerdin's Pty. Ltd. .... Melbourne, Albury  
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& Cairns

LOOK TO YOUR STOCKS  
OF THESE LINES THAT  
**SELL FASTER**  
**E. OFTENER**

DISTRIBUTED BY

**H. C. SLEIGH LTD.**

Melbourne, Sydney & Interstate Agents



SOLD ONLY BY CHEMISTS



## VICTORIA (Continued)

Great Britain and a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain be remitted. The Council ruled that the request could not be granted as a member continued to be liable for subscriptions until such time as his membership was terminated.

From the City of Melbourne, inviting the Council to nominate representative for the voting roll for the Gipps and Smith Wards. In the absence of the President overseas, Mr. E. Scott, Vice-President, was nominated.

To the Superintendent of Telephones, supporting the applications of two members for the installation of telephones.

To the O.C. of a training camp, requesting early release of pharmacy students from National Service Training. The Secretary said the application had been granted.

From a member, inquiring for a formula for chemical blueing of steel. Referred to Technical Staff.

To the Trustees, Galen Scholarship, advising that Mr. Barry L. Rule had been selected for a Nicholas Bursary available to a fourth year student proceeding to the Fellowship Course.

To the Victorian Branch of the Guild, forwarding copies of correspondence reporting satisfactory conclusion of negotiations of dispensing for the St. Arnaud Hospital.

To Mr. H. A. Braithwaite, President, Pharmacy Board, conveying invitation for the Board to nominate a representative to read one of the lessons at the Annual Church Service of the Society on May 30.

To Mr. J. W. D. Crowley, Catholic Pharmacists' Guild, submitting copy of circular re Annual Church Services, for comment and approval.

From the Secretary, Society of Hospital Pharmacists, inviting the President to attend the Conference of Hospital Pharmacists during the month. In the absence of the President and the inability of the Vice-President to attend, Mr. Long was nominated to represent the Council.

From the Society of Hospital Pharmacists, submitting reasons for request that they be represented on the Education Committee of the Society. It was resolved that the Secretary of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists be advised that there is no provision for sectional representation on sub-committees, but that the Council saw no reason why a member of the Hospital Pharmacists should not be co-opted to the Education Committee. The convenor of that committee would be notified accordingly.

From the Public Relations Secretariat, forwarding list of suburbs and towns to which it was sending magazine articles for publication in local papers.

From the Victorian Pharmacy Students' Association, forwarding list of office-bearers and members of S.R.C. for 1954.

To Mrs. K. R. Tyler, Mrs. A. L. Noye and Mr. T. Forrestal, conveying sympathy in bereavements.

To the Victorian Branch of the Guild, transmitting view of Ethics Committee regarding A.M.C.A.L. advertisement featuring free tape measure.

To a country member, forwarding report of lecturer in Botany on botanical specimen submitted for identification.

From the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia, requesting advice re Victoria's position with Federal Council of Pharmaceutical Societies. Information supplied.

To the British Medical Association (Vic. Branch), submitting for comment draft list of B.P. Drugs with dosage and therapeutic notes compiled by Mr. A. L. Hull.

From Mr. I. J. Thompson (radiogram), thanking the Council for re-electing him President.

From a number of members, forwarding contributions to Building Fund. Letters of thanks sent to each.

To the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, introducing Mr. S. G. Hale.

From a member, seeking translation of four German prescriptions. Translations supplied.

From the Dean of the College, suggesting purchase of another manesty electric still for pharmacy laboratory in basement. Recommendation approved.

**New Members.**—The following new members were elected:

**Fellow:** Mrs. Gweneth K. Ibbott.

**Full Members:** Keith Robert John Brooks, John Edward Delzoppo, Mordecai Halprin, Barbara E. Higgins, Donald Robert Horsfield, Christine Alice Humphreys, Patrick Thomas McNamara, John Napoli, Harry Waysman.

**Transfer from Apprentice:** Kevin Niels Broberg, George Anthony Copeland, Mary Lorraine Evans, William Noel Grigg, Victor Gross, Pamela Anne Perry, Nola Elsie Revill, June Margery Shaw, John William Weir, John Francis White.

**Apprentice Members:** Jeanette Ross Fewtrell, Keith William Forbes, Harry Glickman, Paul Johnston Harvie, James William Hawksley, Peter James Hunt, Vivian James McLachlan, Aleidis Paula Gertrudis, Maria Mackson, Beverley Joan Rooney, Leigh Rowarth, John Barry Sargent, Suzanne Gladys Tatlow, Jenifer Lucy Tonkin, John David Veal, John David Williamson, Eddie K. T. Lee.

**A.P.F. Management Committee.**—Mr. Johnson, Chairman of the A.P.F. Management Committee, reported on a meeting held on April 14. Copies of the minutes of that meeting, he said, had been circulated to members of the Council.

The Committee had recommended that the Council resume issue of A.P.F. bulletins to medical practitioners and chemists. A draft bulletin dealing with seasonal A.P.F. preparations and offering prescribing information had been drafted by Mr. Callister and Dr. Stanton, and was now in course of publication. Mr. Johnson tabled several copies of the typescript of the bulletin, and after some discussion, this was approved.

Mr. Johnson also reported that some delay had taken place in the arrangements for publication of the new A.P.F., but it was expected that the edition would be available at the end of the year. The Committee had made a suggestion that members in each of the zones of the State should combine for the purpose of organising distribution of complimentary copies of the A.P.F. in the respective areas. This would bring them into contact with local medical practitioners and provide for orderly distribution without overlapping.

The proposed list of B.P. drugs with dosage and notes had been sent to the Victorian Branch of the B.M.A. for comment, and the Committee was anxious to have the list finalised and prepared for publication. The report of the Committee was received and adopted.

**Presentation of Diplomas.**—Arrangements for the ceremony for presentation of Diplomas on May 10 were discussed at a meeting of the Social Committee on the evening of May 3. Mrs. Crawford, who was appointed Chairwoman of that Committee, reported on the arrangements suggested, and her report was adopted.

The Chairman congratulated Mrs. Crawford and her Committee on the work of the Committee.

**Ethics Committee.**—Mr. Long reported on a meeting of the Ethics Committee, held on May 3. Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Johnson and he were present, and he, Mr. Long, had been elected Chairman. The principal item discussed was the resolution from the Ballarat chemists, suggesting that consideration be given to adopting a new Code of Ethics. The Committee had also considered certain A.M.C.A.L. advertising which had been placed before it.

In the opinion of the Committee the Ballarat resolution involved two aspects: (a) revision of the Ethical Code and (b) provision of ways and means of enforcement of it. Much thought had been given to these mat-

## VICTORIA (Continued)

ters by the Committee; copies of the present Code, the draft N.S.W. circulated at the Sydney Conference and the British statement on professional conduct had been given to the members of the Committee, and they were to be called together again at an early date to discuss the matter further. It was hoped that a constructive report would be presented—possibly for submission to the Pharmaceutical Association at the next Melbourne meeting.

The Committee recommended that the A.M.C.A.L. advertisement referred to related to the merchandising side of pharmacy and would be more appropriately dealt with by the Guild.

**College Building.**—Mr. Baird, Honorary Treasurer, reported during the month on an interview that Mr. Scott, Mr. K. Attiwill and he had with the Honorable the Premier, at which it was indicated that £300,000 would be made available for building a College of Pharmacy on the Society's land at Parkville. The Society would be called upon to make annual repayments of £6000.

The Secretary said no written statement had yet been received from the Government. He reported on a conference he had had with the Accountant to the Treasurer, who intimated that a definite proposal in writing would have to be made and accepted. The report was received, and it was resolved that the Publicity Committee meet at an early date to consider revival of the Building Fund Appeal.

**Lecturer in Forensic Pharmacy.**—The Chairman reported that Mr. W. O. Harris of Counsel had been invited to deliver a series of six lectures to fourth year students of the College as part of the Final Course. This arrangement was ratified by the Council.

**Church Services.**—The Chairman said that two services would be held on Sunday, May 30, one at St. Paul's Cathedral and one at St. Patrick's Cathedral. A circular was being prepared for distribution to all members. At the St. Paul's Cathedral service he would read one of the Lessons and Mr. H. A. Braithwaite of the Pharmacy Board would read the other. Arrangements approved.

**Medico-Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee.**—The Secretary reported some difficulty in arranging a suitable date for the proposed meeting. Thursday, June 10, had been suggested, and the possibility of bringing both groups together on that night was being investigated.

**Pharmaceutical Service in Mental Hospitals.**—Communication was received from Ararat chemists concerning remuneration for the service being given. Mr. Long said this would affect the position at Beechworth also. It was agreed that the present rates were quite unsuitable and that an approach be made to the Public Service Board to seek more equitable payment for the services being rendered.

**Pharmacy Laboratory.**—The Honorary Treasurer reported that three quotations had been received for painting the Pharmacy Laboratory. This work had become necessary. The quotation of Mr. N. Harris, being the lowest, was accepted.

**Year Book, 1954.**—Mr. V. G. Morieson, Chairman of the Year Book Committee, reported that preparations for the Year Book Committee to correct the proofs were in hand, and he expected the book to be in members' hands within the next few weeks.

**Financial.**—The Honorary Treasurer submitted the monthly financial statement, and accounts totalling £2289/8/10 were passed for payment.

**Discussion Group: Publication of Proceedings.**—Mr. Hamon said an inquiry had been addressed to him at a country meeting of chemists as to whether discussions at meetings of the Group could be published for the benefit of country members, who were unable to attend. They were very interested in these proceedings. Mr. Hamon said he had understood that at one time it

was proposed that proceedings would be published in the "Australasian Journal of Pharmacy." Mr. Johnson said the matter had been discussed by the Committee of the Group and it was the intention to give more extensive reports in future. There were good reasons why full reports could not be published of some of the lectures and discussions already given. Apart from these circumstances there was always the difficulty of the lecturer finding sufficient time to prepare abstracts for publication. He would, however, take the matter up seriously with the Chairman and Secretary of the Discussion Group.

The meeting closed at 12.20 p.m.

## THE P.D.L.

### Directors' Meeting

The 361st meeting of the Directors of Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd. was held at 360 Swanston Street, Melbourne, on May 19, at 9.40 a.m.

**Present.**—Mr. E. W. Braithwaite (in the chair), Messrs. I. H. Barnes, W. J. Cornell, N. C. Cossar, F. N. Pleasance, C. C. Wallis and the Secretary.

**Correspondence.**—Formal correspondence was tabled and the following were amongst the letters dealt with:

Communications to four members whose dues were still outstanding at the April meeting had resulted in their completing their membership for the current year.

To the Mutual Life & Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd., advising that the suggestion whereby an appropriate letter would be sent from the P.D.L. to each new policy-holder in the P.D.L. Group Assurance Scheme with the M.L.C. had been approved in principle by the Directors. Procedure for working was set out in the letter of advice to the M.L.C., together with a copy of the letter which the P.D.L. would be prepared to forward.

To Melbourne Fire Office Ltd., bringing under notice an article in "Industrial Victoria" of April, 1954. Reply from M.F.O., stating that the matter was receiving consideration with a view to the printing of a circular which might be sent to members with the renewal notices.

From the Town Clerk, City of Melbourne, seeking nomination for the City Voters' Roll. Resolved that the name of the chairman, Mr. E. W. Braithwaite, be submitted.

The secretary reported an announcement by Sir Arthur Fadden, Commonwealth Treasurer, on March 25, that the Commonwealth Committee on Taxation, which was set up in 1949, had been abolished.

Copies of the article, "First-Aid Treatment in Open Shop," published in the April issue of "The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy," were tabled.

Attention was directed to a paragraph published in the New South Wales news section of the April issue of the Journal, under the heading, "Get the Address—P.D.L. Warning." It was decided that a similar paragraph be prepared for publication in the Victorian "Gilseal News."

To the Branch Secretaries, notifying that Mr. I. H. Barnes had been co-opted to the Directorate and asking that this change be recorded with the Registrar of Companies in each State.

The W.A. Branch Secretary wrote: "I have been asked to ascertain whether P.D.L. would assist members who might be faced with charges arising from the supply of medicine on P.B.A. or P.M.S. scripts. In most cases drugs are purchased in good faith from the warehouses and it is impracticable for chemists to test each drug before use. If a drug so supplied does not comply with Commonwealth tests for purity (which are not necessarily B.P. tests) the member may be liable." The chairman said this inquiry suggested that the Department was now conducting tests for purity. Hitherto their enquiries had been concerned with check-

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3 dozen 13/3 per doz. less additional 2½%  
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\* Hexachlorophene (G11) is the most powerful anti-bacterial agent known to medical science. Johnson's Baby Cream, with hexachlorophene, is indicated in all simple infections of the skin, such as impetigo, acne, ringworm, etc. It helps clear up infection—prevents infection, too!

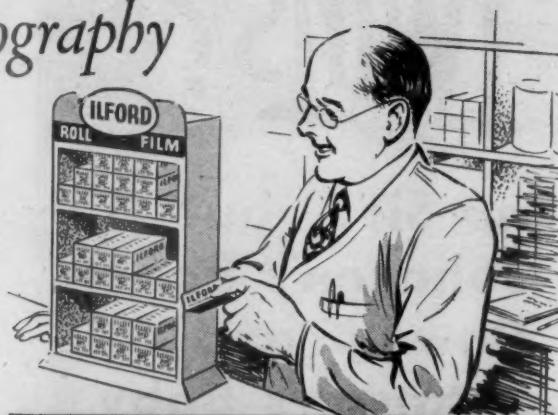
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Make sure you obtain full benefit from this publicity by displaying Bex. In recommending Bex you recommend a high quality thoroughly proven line.

# Bex POWDERS & TABLETS

## VICTORIA (Continued)

ing alleged substitution or short weight. Where a matter of principle was involved, the P.D.L. might be prepared to grant assistance, according to the circumstances. Where it was a case of goods or drugs bought in good faith and sold or used within a reasonable period (having regard to deterioration or contamination) the P.D.L. would support the member in the event of the warehouse disclaiming responsibility. After discussion it was decided that only in exceptional circumstances, and then only after careful enquiries, would P.D.L. intervene in a case involving alleged short-measure or substitution.

The correspondence was received.

**New Members Elected.**—Mr. W. Jackson, Beaufort; Mr. G. S. McNeill, Euroa; Miss R. C. Rogers, East Mavern, and Mr. M. J. Whiffin, Camberwell.

**Legal Advice.**—A member who was endeavouring to collect a debt of £35 was recommended to have the matter handled by a solicitor.

A member stated that he had been advised by the police that the signature of one of the local doctors on his prescriptions was illegible, and that any further dispensing of this doctor's prescriptions with illegible signature would be done at the member's own risk. Legal advice on this inquiry was that, provided the chemist was satisfied that the prescription tendered was in fact signed by the local doctor, then he was bound to dispense it. They did not agree that such dispensing would be done at the risk of the member. After discussion, it was decided that the facts in this case and a copy of the legal opinion furnished be conveyed to the Pharmacy Board, together with an enquiry as to whether the Board concurred in the opinion given.

Acid supplied for the charging of a battery was the subject of another inquiry, and the member was advised on the facts given.

**Labour and Industry Act, 1953.**—The Secretary said this Act had not been proclaimed, but those provisions of the Act having reference to pharmacy (including Long Service Leave) had been abstracted ready for publication as soon as the Act was proclaimed. Some of the new provisions were reviewed by the chairman and discussed by the Directors.

**Suggested Claims Fund.**—A communication dated May 10 was received from the State Secretary of the F.P.S. Guild of Australia (Victorian Branch), advising the result of the questionnaire sent to members in March last. Replies received to date were summarised as follows:

Willing to subscribe . . . . .	153
Not willing to subscribe . . . . .	33
Conditional . . . . .	6
Total . . . . .	192

After discussion, it was resolved that a suggestion be forwarded to the Guild that a committee of three of the Directors together with the Secretary meet a committee of three members of the S.B.C. and the Guild Secretary to examine and discuss the results with a view to arriving at a joint policy to follow in this matter; the Guild to be invited to nominate a date for the meeting.

**Ray Lamps.**—As instructed at the April meeting, a letter enquiring the latest position in regard to the scope of the Chemists' Indemnity policy with particular reference to ray lamps had been addressed to Melbourne Fire Office Ltd. The reply from M.F.O., dated April 23, stated that the company was writing to its Sydney office for further information. Later advice was now awaited.

A letter had been received from the Federal Secretary of the Guild dated April 30, acknowledging letter from the P.D.L. of March 24 and advising that that letter and the earlier letter of October 5, 1953, would be submitted at the Annual Meeting of the Federal Council of the Guild in October next.

**Financial.**—The Hon. Treasurer presented the monthly financial statement, and accounts totalling £671/12/2 (including investment purchase) were passed for payment.

The meeting closed at 1.15 p.m.

## QUEENSLAND

### PERSONAL and GENERAL

**State News**

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in Queensland, Miss D. Brighouse, phone B 8407.

**Captain D. F. Lloyd** has been transferred to School of Army Health, Healesville, Victoria.

**Mr. C. W. Watkins** has returned to Mundubbera after a holiday spent on the North Coast. During his absence, **Miss Marie Moore** acted as locum.

**Mr. Ken Tudor** has taken over the pharmacy conducted by his father for some years at Ipswich Road, Annerley.

**Mr. E. Bartlett**, of Mullumbimby, N.S.W., who is establishing a pharmacy at Burleigh Heads, visited Brisbane during the month.

Good wishes for restoration to health are extended to **Lieut. T. N. Slater**, of Britcom General Hospital, Kure, Japan, who is a patient at the Repatriation Hospital, Greenslopes.

**In the News.**—The "Day by Day" column in the "Courier-Mail" recently mentioned that Sir Bernard Spilsbury, of London, was the world's great pathologist. He was more fantastic than "Sherlock Holmes," and when he died in 1947 he had solved 1000 death mysteries. The writer of the "Courier" column drew attention to the fact that a young chemist had opened a business at Waterworks Road, Ashgrove, a Brisbane suburb. His name? Bernard Spilsbury!

**Charles Minnis House.**—To perpetuate the memory of the late J. C. Minnis, pharmacist and former civic leader who gave 26 years' service to Ipswich Legacy, a block of three modern self-contained flats to provide accommodation for Legacy mothers and their families was opened recently by Miss Ursula Minnis in Ipswich. The home was bought and converted into flats at a cost of £4250. It is the biggest single effort of the Ipswich Legacy Club and is believed to be the only Legacy undertaking of its kind in Queensland.

**Pentagon Function.**—The first Pentagon function of the year took the form of a "Bucks" Party and was held at "Riverside" Ballroom, New Farm on May 20. It was one of the best attended Pentagon functions, over a hundred chemists, wholesalers and retailers being present. The committee which arranged the function included: Messrs. Henry Evans (chairman), A. Isbel (secretary), T. Brown (treasurer); Messrs. V. Barnett, R. V. S. Martin, W. O'Shea, P. Burn, H. Lehnhase, B. Chestermaster, M. Lyne, A. T. Thorsen, F. Nolan.

During the evening musical items by Messrs. Jack Stevens and Jim Foster were enjoyed, and Mr. H. G. Louttit kindly showed his films of the Barrier Reef.

## QUEENSLAND (Continued)

### WEDDINGS.

A number of marriages of pharmaceutical interest have taken place during the month. They included:

The marriage of Mr. William Lance Druery, of Coorparoo, to Miss Joan M. Kenealy at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Coorparoo, on April 24.

Miss Erica Earnshaw, of Clayfield, whose marriage to Dr. Reg. Busch, of Holland Park, took place at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, on May 1.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, was also chosen by Miss Dawn Lauder, of Mt. Gravatt, who was married to Dr. H. J. Gibson, of Brisbane, on May 8.

At St. Ignatius Church, Toowong, on May 15, the marriage was celebrated of Mr. Francis J. Doyle to Miss Cecily Murphy, of Toowong.

Congratulations and good wishes are extended.

### PHARMACISTS' PICNIC.

One would not think he was in Sunny Queensland on Sunday, May 23, as a cold grey day greeted those who planned to join in the first Pharmacists' Picnic arranged by members of the Social Sub-Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Etons Crossing was the location chosen, and Mr. Cec. Noble travelled out the previous evening, erecting "Ipana" sign-posts along the route (a true indication of "Chemists Only") and camped by the picnic spot, to ensure the best space would be available for the picnic party when it arrived.

Although the weather was bleak and chilly, fifty odd joined in true picnic spirit. It was good to see Mr. A. M. McFarlane (formerly of Victoria) and now in business at Stones Corner, in the party.

With his boy-scouting experience, Mr. Noble provided invaluable assistance in preparing a fireplace and in boiling the billy. Games and a sports programme were provided, and the younger members of the party particularly voted the day's outing a great success.

The thanks of all are extended to the members of the Social Sub-Committee: Mrs. Carlson, Miss Chalmers, Messrs. J. E. McCaskie, R. G. Gardner and L. Stevens for making the necessary arrangements.

### MANY NEW PHARMACIES OPENED.

In the course of a hearing of an application for salary increases ranging up to £3 for pharmaceutical chemists employed in retail practice it was stated to the Industrial Court on May 12 that 30 new chemists' shops had been opened in the metropolitan area in the past year or so.

This statement was made by Mr. W. T. Ward, who appeared for the assistants. He claimed that the introduction of the Pharmaceutical Benefits plan had resulted in a big increase in the volume of business being done by pharmaceutical chemists.

The profession was a highly skilled one calling for years of intense study.

John Alexander Anderson, a registered pharmaceutical chemist on the staff of the Brisbane and South Coasts Hospital Board, said prices were based on the price of material used, containers and a fee for service.

Mr. P. J. Self, representing the Queensland Employers' Federation, said that, despite the introduction of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the Pensioners' Medical Service, there had been no overall increase in the volume of business. The Commonwealth Health Department had provided chemists with approved standard formulae which eased the responsibility of the assistants' work, and all items were pre-priced.

The Court reserved its decision.

Mr. C. W. Noble appeared for the master pharmacists.

### CHEMISTS' GOLF CLUB.

The club had a very enjoyable outing at Nudgee Golf Links on May 18. Forty-five players passed the starter and some interesting golf was played.

Bill Stanley was successful in winning the prize for the best card returned for the day.

The winners for the A grade group were: George Kemp and Jim Sweeney.

B grade winner was Max Lawton.

The Associates' competition was won by Pat Pointon.

The course was in perfect condition and some excellent cards were returned by members of the club.

A most enjoyable cricket match was also played. If you want to know more about this activity, it will be necessary to obtain the information from those who played!

The next outing will be on July 4 and the event will take place at the Virginia Golf Links. Please keep this date open. Details will be supplied later.

### CHEMISTS' BOWLING NOTES.

On May 9, an afternoon game was played against members of the Balmoral Club. There were four rinks of chemist visitors and the scores were:

	Balmoral
Colledge, Archibald, Coffey, Bell . . . . .	23      34
Lenehan, Lewis, Belford, Clarke . . . . .	26      19
Barnett, Burke, North, Stephens . . . . .	23      30
Ward, Thurecht, Whitehead, Dr. Morris . . . . .	13      38
	<hr/> 85      121

Trophy spoons for the day's play were won by Clarke's rink.

The monthly mid-week game was played at Hamilton on May 12 and resulted in a small win for the home side. The result was:

	Hamilton
Neal, Atkins, Gillies, Allison . . . . .	14      32
Shedden, LeeBryce, Archibald, Young . . . . .	32      19
Kelly, Lewis, Hanesh, Pumfrey . . . . .	23      23
Purcell, Grimes, Ward, Dr. Stanley Waters . . . . .	20      22
	<hr/> 89      96

The next mid-week game will be played at Booroodabin on June 9 and a Sunday afternoon game will be played against Sandgate members on June 13.

### "CENTRALISATION" IN PROFESSIONS.

There is an "evident tendency" towards greater centralisation of professional men and women in Queensland, according to the current issue of "Economic News," which was the subject of a reference in "The Courier Mail" of May 13.

Of the professions, architecture, engineering, and medicine are shown to be the most centralised, nursing and veterinary science the least.

This bulletin, which is issued monthly by the Queensland Bureau of Industry, says there are two main contributing factors:

(1) The improvement of transport facilities.

(2) The ever-increasing specialisation of professional men as their subjects become more complex.

Based on the statistics of the 1953 Government Gazette, the bulletin briefly follows the trends in the various professions:

**General Medical Practitioners.**—681 of the State's 1101 doctors are in Brisbane, Ipswich, or Redcliffe, representing a rate of 133 for every 100,000 head of population, or 62 per cent. of the State's total.

**Medical Specialists.**—In 1953 there were 282 medical specialists in Brisbane, Ipswich, or Redcliffe, out of a total of 340 in the State.

**Nurses.**—Because they offer a less specialised service than doctors, their distribution is closer to the distribu-

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## QUEENSLAND (Continued)

tion of population. Of the 2426 in Queensland in 1953, only 1145 were in Brisbane.

**Dentists.**—Have not the same authority as doctors in demanding their patients' attendance at a central location, and so disperse more: 330 in Brisbane, Redcliffe, or Ipswich, out of 608 in the State.

**Chemists.**—388 in Brisbane, Ipswich, or Redcliffe, 740 in the State.

**Optometrists.**—100 in Brisbane, Ipswich or Redcliffe, 166 in the State.

**Veterinary Surgeons.**—59 in Brisbane, Ipswich, or Redcliffe, and 136 in the State.

**Legal Profession.**—Of the State's 108 barristers in 1953, 98 were in Brisbane. Solicitors are not as specialised (443 in State, 228 in city area).

**Public Accountants.**—In 1953 there were 1011 in the State, 678 of them in Brisbane, Redcliffe, or Ipswich.

### PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

#### Council Meeting

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland met at Drysdales Chambers, Brisbane, on May 13, at 8 p.m.

**Attendance.**—Mr. R. V. S. Martin (President), Messrs. R. S. F. Greig, V. Barnett, L. A. Stevens, J. S. D. Mellick, J. E. McCaskie, R. G. Gardner, Mrs. L. Carlson, Miss E. Chalmers and the Secretary.

#### Business Ex Minutes.

**Membership Certificate.**—The Secretary presented the completed Certificate of Membership. As the names had been given to the printer twelve months ago, these would now have to be checked with the present membership register and adjustments made. The signatures of the President and the Secretary and the date of admission of each member were required to complete the certificate.

Members of Council agreed that the certificate was neat and appropriate for the Society.

**Pharmaceutical Education Questionnaire.**—The Secretary advised that the questionnaire promulgated by the Guild and Society had been printed and distributed to 715 registered pharmacists in Queensland. Although the questionnaire had just been distributed the return to date had been very promising.

**Copies of Apprentices Act and Industrial and Arbitration Acts.** which the Secretary was requested to obtain were tabled for the information of members.

**Pharmacists' Picnic.**—Miss Chalmers (Convenor) reported that the sub-committee had met prior to the Council meeting to finalise arrangements for the picnic. Taylors Elliotts Pty. Ltd. and Queensland Druggists Ltd. had been very helpful by way of circularising the information concerning the picnic. Mr. Dowd, of Q.D.L., had also promised to make one of the company's trucks available for transporting any material. Catering arrangements were well in hand.

The President said he hoped that as many as possible would join in to make the picnic as enjoyable as possible. He thanked Miss Chalmers for her report and the social committee for the work it had done.

**Correspondence.**—To Director-General of Health and Medical Services, enquiring if he would be good enough to advise what is intended by Regulation 77 (a), and to what chemical it would apply.—Replies advising that Regulation 77 (a) of the Poisons Regulations refers to electrical heating devices which are coming on to the local market. They consist of a receptacle (metal or porcelain) heated by an electric element, and the usual poison used for insecticidal purposes is lindane, which is approximately 98 per cent. benzene hexachloride.

To Dr. D. Gordon, thanking him for information supplied concerning "1080."

To Mr. W. R. Cutler, extending invitation to him to address members when he visits Brisbane within the next month or two.—No reply has yet been received from Mr. Cutler.

To Pharmaceutical Association of Australia, advising that this Council is in agreement with the suggestion that the conference should be held immediately following Section "O" meeting, when it is held in Melbourne in August, 1955.

To Standards Association of Australia, advising that the Council is satisfied with the standards as set out.

From Mr. K. G. Attiwill: (1) Forwarding names of towns to which he sends magazine articles for publication in local papers. (2) Forwarding newspaper cutting for the information of the Council. (3) Stating he has received communications from several Societies, drawing attention to undesirable newspaper publicity about drugs and potent substances. In reply, he had suggested that each State should call a meeting of its medico-pharmaceutical liaison committee to discuss this whole subject, and decide the best course to pursue. Suggesting that necessary steps be taken to arrange for an early meeting of the State Medico-Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee to discuss ways and means of controlling this type of publicity. If all States are in agreement, the Secretariat will strongly recommend that the Pharmaceutical Association approach the Federal Council of the B.M.A. to convene a meeting of the Federal Medico-Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee to deal with the matter upon a Federal basis.

Mr. Mellick said he considered that this was an important subject for discussion, and in essence it should be supported.

Mr. Greig said he considered that it was a subject that could well be discussed with the doctors. It was some time since the Committee had met, chiefly because neither the doctors nor the chemists had anything of mutual importance for discussion.

After discussion, Mr. Mellick moved that the matter be left in the hands of the Executive to arrange a meeting with doctor members of the Medico-Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee. Seconded by Mr. Greig.—Carried.

The Secretary reported that she had a letter from the Guild, advising that Mr. Attiwill's letter had been discussed by the State Branch Committee, which was in agreement with the suggestion of a meeting with the doctors, and the Guild now recommended that the Society should arrange such a meeting with the B.M.A. members.

From the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, with reference to the proposed advertising campaign for "Gileal" Infra Red Lamps. After consideration by the Council, Mr. Greig moved, Mr. McCaskie seconded, that the letter lie on the table for a month so that members might give thought to the matter. In the meantime the Executive Officers of the Society to discuss the matter with the Executive Officers of the Guild. It was resolved that the N.S.W. Society's letter be acknowledged, and that they be asked to furnish copies of material to which they take exception, as the Council has not seen the material to which they refer.

**Poisons Regulations** from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain were noted.

**Unfinancial Members.**—The Secretary reported that to date there were 26 unfinancial full members and 16 associates who had not paid the current year's subscription. Letters had been written to these unfinancial members, and their names had been removed from the Journal Mailing List since April.

**New Members Elected.**—Miss A. E. Hammond, Toowoomba; Mr. B. H. Spilsbury, Ashgrove, and Mr. A. M. McFarlane, Stones Corner.

**Pharmacy Board.**—The President reported on matters which had recently engaged the attention of the Board.

**Publication for Library.**—Mr. Greig said the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain had two new publi-

## QUEENSLAND (Continued)

cations—the Poisons Regulations and the Guide to them. He moved that copies of these be procured. Seconded by Miss Chalmers.—Carried.

Mr. Greig reported that Mr. Barnett and he were working on the Poisons Regulations material for distribution to members. It was a big job, but they hoped eventually to have it completed.

**Poisons Regulations.**—Mr. Mellick said he noticed in the Guild report of the April meeting in the Journal that on enquiries being made from the Health Department it was learnt that a store in the country was in order in selling "Ozaline," because it was the holder of a "K" Licence. After discussion, it was agreed that discussion take place with the Guild Executive concerning the difference between a "C" and "K" Licence, as listed in the Poisons Regulations.

**Retirement of Councillors.**—The Secretary reported that the retiring Councillors for 1954 are: Messrs. V. Barnett, R. S. F. Greig, A. B. Williams and R. G. Gardner.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

### THE GUILD

### S.B.C. Meeting

The State Branch Committee of the Queensland Branch of the Guild met at Drysdale's Chambers, Brisbane, on May 6, at 8 p.m.

**Attendance.**—Messrs. W. A. Lenehan (President), C. A. Nichol, W. E. Martin, F. H. Phillips, A. B. Chater, L. Hall, L. W. Huxham, C. W. Noble, A. N. C. Munro, and the State Secretary.

**Application by Chemists' Assistants' Union for a Variation of the Award.**—The President reported that since last meeting, Mr. Smith, President of the N.S.W. Branch, had visited Brisbane, and had discussed with the Executive the application by the Chemists' Assistants' Union for increased wages. Mr. Smith also met Mr. Self, of the Queensland Employers' Federation, who would be representing the Guild at the hearing. Mr. Lenehan reported that as Mr. Noble had represented the Guild several times previously, he had kindly agreed to accompany Mr. Self to the Court.

Mr. Hall and Mr. Munro advocated that it would be advisable if a second delegate was also selected, so that experience would be gained in such procedure for the future.

Finally, Mr. Chater moved, Mr. Martin seconded, that further details concerning the application be left in the hands of the Executive.—Carried.

**Report of Pricing Committee Concerning Prices For Household Packs.**—At the request of the President, Mr. Huxham reported that since last meeting the Pricing Committee had met to peruse the replies from various Zones concerning prices for certain packed lines. The lines chiefly concerned were Mercurochrome, Benedict's Solution, Glycerine and Rosewater, Camphorated Oil. Various price lists were consulted and the Committee felt that it had to arrive at a reasonable compromise.

Mr. Huxham advised the prices that had been adjusted. It was suggested that these be now circularised to members with a covering note which had been prepared.

**Pharmaceutical Education.**—The President reported that the Executives of the Guild and Society had met and had prepared a questionnaire. This was now being printed and would be forwarded with a reply paid business envelope to every registered pharmaceutical chemist in Queensland. It was hoped that there would be a good response.

Members enquired if a reply had been received from the Society Council concerning the approach to the Technical College for a supplementary examination for first-year students who failed in their examinations. From the combined Guild and Society meeting, it was agreed that both bodies should write to the College concerning this matter. The Guild had written and had sent a copy of the letter to the Society Council for its information.

After discussion, it was resolved that a letter be written to the Society, enquiring if they had fulfilled the agreement they entered into at the combined meeting held on March 2.—Carried.

**New Members Elected.**—Messrs. B. H. Spilsbury, Ashgrove; C. N. Geyer, Inglewood; E. W. Terkelsen, Innisfail and L. G. Cristaldo, Coolangatta.

**Removals on Account of Sale of Pharmacy.**—The following were noted: Mr. J. M. Chapman, Inglewood, and Mr. F. M. Woods, Innisfail.

As Mr. Woods had been a "key" member in the North for some years and had always been very helpful and co-operative, Mr. Nichol proposed, Mr. Martin seconded, that a letter expressing thanks for his services be sent to Mr. Woods from the Committee.—Carried.

Closure of Mr. G. A. McBride's branch pharmacy at 125 Bourbong street, Bundaberg, was noted.

**Correspondence.**—To Federal Secretary, stating that from time to time this Branch receives requests from doctors in remote parts of the State where there is no chemist, asking if they can be furnished with copies of Guild price lists. Enquiring if it is considered good policy to supply such doctors with price lists issued by the Guild.

After discussion, Mr. Chater said he would be willing to price any of the doctor's prescriptions—ethical or extemporaneously prepared—if the doctor cared to forward the prescriptions for pricing.

Members of the Committee said they appreciated Mr. Chater's gesture, and it was resolved that the wholesalers who raised the question be advised that this Branch could not see its way clear to provide price lists, but the Pricing Officer had kindly offered to price for the doctor any of his prescriptions containing ethicals and extemporaneously prepared preparations, if he cared to forward them for pricing.

To Mr. K. G. Attiwill, enquiring if he can devise any ways and means for bringing customer traffic into the pharmacies—by brochure printed to hand to customers or by radio advertising.

To Richard Hudnut Pty. Ltd., reporting that wholesale representatives, when calling on chemists, offering the new preparation, "Light and Bright," have advised that the product could only be purchased in half-dozen lots. Stating that this State Branch Committee strongly objects to the principle of forcing chemists to buy more than they require. Trusting that in the future no stipulation will be set as to the quantity a chemist can purchase.—Reply, stating that wholesalers and their representatives were told to try for a half-dozen minimum, comprising a factory-packed display unit. There is nothing compulsory about it, nor does the company wish to have its presentation put to the retailers on any arbitrary basis. It feels, however, that it is entitled to the support of the chemists on this new product because distribution is being restricted to pharmacists and a few selected department stores, in line with the usual Hudnut policy.

To Mr. P. G. Gee, thanking him and his son for their membership of the Guild over a long period of years, and extending to them good wishes for the future. Reply from Mr. Gee and his son, expressing appreciation of the work of the Guild over the years, and regretting their cessation of membership.

To the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland, forwarding copy of letter sent to the Technical College, requesting the establishment of supplementary examinations.



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Australian General Electric Pty. Ltd., 555 Bourke Street.  
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S. Hoffnung & Co., 246 Flinders Lane.  
Ponsford, Newman & Benson Ltd., 234 Flinders Lane.  
W. D. & H. O. Wills Ltd., 411 Swanston Street.

**PERTH:**

Atkins (W.A.) Ltd., 894 Hay Street.  
Feltex, Grimwade & Bickford Pty. Ltd., 277 Murray Street.  
Ponsford, Newman & Benson Ltd., Plaza Chambers, cnr. Plaza Arcade and Murray Street.  
W. D. & H. O. Wills Ltd., cnr. Murray and Milligan Streets.

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Australian General Electric Pty. Ltd., 113 Margaret Street.  
S. Hoffnung & Co., Charlotte Street.  
Ponsford, Newman & Benson Ltd., 113 Eagle Street.  
Taylors Elliotts Pty. Ltd., 150 Charlotte Street.  
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## QUEENSLAND (Continued)

From Federal Secretary: (1) Advising the annual meeting of the Federal Council will take place in Melbourne, commencing on October 25. Remits would have to be in hand by August 25. The President asked members to give some thought to remits for passing on to the Federal Council.

(2) Requesting that members be advised that it has been learned authoritatively that as from June 1, 1954, all penicillin products supplied as Pharmaceutical Benefits will be paid at a basic price for all brands, and that all items over 1,500,000 units will be deleted.

From Public Relations Secretariat, stating that letters have come from other States, drawing attention to undesirable newspaper publicity about drugs and potent substances, especially reports of thallium incidence. Suggesting to the States concerned that they should call a meeting of their medico-pharmaceutical liaison committee to discuss this whole subject. Suggesting that if similar instances exist in Queensland, that a meeting of the local medico-pharmaceutical liaison committee be held. After discussion, it was agreed that endeavours be made with the Society to arrange a meeting of the local Medico-Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee.

From Medical Benefits Fund of Australia, forwarding copy of letter sent to a country member regarding delay in meeting claims. Noted.

From a country member, with regard to shortage of supplies of bottles, especially  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. poisons. Enquiring if it would be possible for the Guild to bring pressure to bear on the glass works. Members reported that various chemists had complained lately concerning shortages of supplies of bottles, and they supported an approach being made to the glass works, reporting that chemists all over the State complain of the periodic shortage of bottles, and enquiring if they can accelerate supplies. The Secretary was requested to communicate with the glass manufacturers, as suggested.

**By-Laws.**—It was hoped there would be an opportunity to discuss the by-laws after May 13.

**Report of Federal Delegate.**—Mr. Martin tabled correspondence and circulars he had received from Federal Office during the month.

Mr. Martin asked members of the Committee and the Zones to give consideration to any remits for discussion and to submit them as early as possible so that they could be forwarded for the agenda of the Federal Council meeting.

**"Gilseal" Packed Goods.**—Mr. Chater moved that the Packed Goods Sub-Committee meet for a complete re-survey of the "Gilseal" household packed prices. Mr. Noble seconded the motion. Carried.

**Vulcan Mixer.**—Mr. Chater recommended that the Merchandising Manager be written to, requesting that the Vulcan Company be approached to see if they can supply a top for the mixer, to replace the existing one. He recommended that the new one be more resistant to many of the drugs which chemists handled, particularly Paraffin and other oils, as these affected the rubber.

Mr. Martin said he would also recommend that the Merchandising Manager be asked to give a lead by submitting a number of formulae which could be used in the mixer with success. He believed that many Melbourne chemists and the Victorian College of Pharmacy had a number of formulae which they made successfully with the Vulcan Mixer, and he thought if the formulae could be obtained they would be of great advantage to many members. As it was at present sufficient use was not being made of the machine.

Mr. Chater said he would be happy to include this recommendation in his earlier suggestion, and would ask the Secretary to pass this information on to the

Merchandising Manager. On Mr. Chater moving accordingly, the motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and carried.

**Retail List.**—Mr. Chater recommended that another letter be written to N.S.W., urging the incorporation of the ethical list on page 35 of the retail list in the general body of the retail list. Some semi-ethical lines were already in the general list, and if the other lines listed on page 35 were included, it would bring everything into uniformity and would benefit not only Queensland members, but those in N.S.W. and Western Australia. Mr. Noble supported Mr. Chater's suggestion, and the Secretary was requested to communicate with N.S.W. accordingly.

**Remit for Federal Council Meeting.**—Since the disastrous floods in Northern N.S.W., Mr. Huxham said he had felt that there should be a fund established by the Guild on a Federal basis which would be subscribed to by members from time to time, and from which relief could be forthcoming to those who suffered loss of business through unfortunate happenings such as floods. He said the Pharmaceutical Society, British Medical Association and other bodies had benevolent funds, and he thought the Guild should give some thought to the establishment of such a fund. From surplus funds each year it might be possible for branches to contribute an amount to establish and enlarge such a fund. To put his suggestion on a proper footing, he moved that at the next meeting of the Guild Federal Council consideration be given to the establishment of a Commonwealth Benevolent Fund for the purposes he had outlined. Seconded by Mr. Munro. Carried.

The meeting closed at 11 p.m.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### PERSONAL and GENERAL

State  
News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in S.A., Mr. E. F. Lipsham.

Mr. R. Brice has been acting as locum for Mr. A. Evans, of Magill.

Mr. N. Bahnsch has purchased the pharmacy conducted by Mr. T. Hemmings in Mannum.

Mr. K. Huxtable is now managing the branch pharmacy of Mr. G. Smylie, of Hampstead.

Mr. D. Brick acted as manager in place of Miss M. Croft during her holiday vacation.

Miss J. Bulman relieved Miss P. Stanley for her holidays at the end of April and beginning of May.

Mr. S. Leyshon is now manager for Mr. D. O'Reilly at his branch pharmacy in Prospect.

Mr. J. Ongley has opened his new pharmacy in Cudmore Park.

Mr. L. Jeffs, of the Mt. Gambier Hospital, will shortly take up duties in the Pharmacy Department of The Royal Adelaide Hospital as deputy chief pharmacist.

Mr. E. Hillman spent a few weeks with Mr. C. Venning, of Seacliff, during May before embarking to visit England.

Mr. B. O'Connor has returned from Tasmania and relieved Mr. Walter C. Cotterell, Federal Treasurer of the Guild, so that he could attend a meeting of Guild Federal Executive in Perth.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA (Continued)

**Mr. L. Norman** visited Barmera at the end of April under engagement with Mr. D. Trevelyan for his annual break to visit Adelaide. Mr. Norman then went to Mr. D. Hill, of Sterling West, for most of May.

**Mr. C. Reid** assisted Mr. G. Bartold, of Hectorville during March; Mr. L. A. Davison, of Croydon, and Mr. J. Cox, of Gawler, during April, and then managed his father's pharmacy on Anzac Highway, Glenelg, during the month of May.

**Wedding.**—The marriage of Lois Eileen Swift, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Swift, to Maxwell George Ramsey, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Ramsey, was solemnised in the Black Forest Baptist Church on February 20.

**Nicotine Poisoning.**—At an inquest on April 30, the City Coroner (Mr. T. E. Cleland) found that Cyril Champion, aged 50, hairdresser, had died from nicotine poisoning at a house in Pirie Street, Kent Town, on February 14. The Coroner said the circumstances suggested that the nicotine had been self-administered.

### ENGAGEMENTS.

**Holbrook-Scarman.**—The engagement is announced of Lynette Joan, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Holbrook, of Rose Park, to Graham Alwyn, third son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Scarman, of Toorak Gardens.

**Burnell-Philp.**—The engagement is announced of Yvonne Kathleen, second daughter of Mrs. P. Burnell, of Centennial Park, to Harold John, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Philp, of Roseworthy College.

### BIRTHS.

**Duncan.**—On April 18, to Olwyn, wife of John—a son.  
**Jones.**—On April 30, to Dee and Douglas—a daughter.

**Randell.**—At Glenelg, to Joan, wife of William Richard Randell—a daughter.

**Teakle (nee Sheehan).**—On May 5 at Glenelg Community Hospital, to Mary, wife of John—a son.

### CHIROPODY.

During the past two or three years courses of training in chiropody organised during the daytime by the School of Mines have failed to attract students, and so a change has been made to provide lectures at night. As an immediate result, 20 students started training in February last. They included two pharmacists, Mr. L. Woolford, of Mt. Barker, and Mr. W. Storen, of Somerton Park.

The Council of the school have issued a statement, "Chiropody as a Profession," containing details of the entrance qualification and the course. Copies of the statement are obtainable from Mr. P. J. O'Reilly, Registrar of The Society of Pharmaceutical Chiropodists of S.A. Inc., North Terrace, Adelaide.

### POST GRADUATE LECTURES.

The Pharmaceutical Society of S.A. has arranged a series of four lectures during 1954 for the benefit of members.

At 8 p.m. on April 29, in the George Murray Hall at the University of Adelaide, the President, Mr. A. C. Hollaway, welcomed about 80 members to the first of these meetings.

He then introduced Dr. T. L. McLarty, who gave an address on aspects of ophthalmology of particular interest to pharmacists.

After outlining the anatomy of the eye, Dr. McLarty discussed some of the medicaments in common use under four main headings: anaesthetics, anti-bacterials, miotics and mydriatics. He discussed the desirability or otherwise of adding a bacteriostatic as a normal

routine and advanced the opinion that such a substance should not be added unless requested by the prescriber. He also expressed the viewpoint that drops for the eye should be made isotonic with the tear fluid.

Dr. McLarty gave reasons why contamination of solutions to be used on the eye should be reduced to a minimum. He indicated that the production of sterilised eye-drops was desirable in all cases and necessary for anaesthetics and drops to be used immediately after an operation.

He then briefly mentioned special methods which could be used where it was not practical to sterilise, drawing for this purpose upon his past experience as a pharmacist.

This later aspect was pursued by Messrs. A. E. Bowey and D. E. Weedman, who described various techniques and demonstrated methods which they considered suitable for the majority of solutions.

The President then invited questions and the large number of members who accepted this invitation indicates the importance of this subject to practising pharmacists. Of these questions perhaps the most interesting concerned boric acid lotions.

In answer Dr. McLarty said that the use of boric acid solution as a standard agent for eye washes, although time-honoured, seemed undesirable because such solutions were acidic and had very little antiseptic value: he felt that normal saline would generally be preferable.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to a consideration of four troublesome prescriptions. These were dealt with by a panel of pharmacists under the chairmanship of Mr. K. S. Porter.

Mr. R. A. Anderson discussed the difficulties of introducing a small volume of fixed oil into lead lotion and presented samples which showed that "Polawax" and methyl cellulose were reasonably satisfactory emulgents.

Mr. E. F. Lipsham dealt with the maximum solubility of iodine in alcohol 95 per cent., namely, 9 per cent. w/v or 10 per cent. w/w as provided in B.P. 1932 under the title Liq. Iod. Simp. In so doing he explained a graph prepared by Mr. A. E. Bowey, which showed that the free iodine content of a solution tested had fallen from 9.1 per cent. on the day of manufacture to 7.95 per cent. 25 days later.

At this stage supper was served.

On resuming, Mr. L. A. Craig showed a number of products containing a small quantity of ichthammol in fixed oil. He explained that the trial of various emulgents had failed to produce a better application than that obtained by mixing the drug with an equal part of water and then shaking that solution into the fixed oil. A similar result had been reached with the addition of wool fat, but he did not consider this method to be necessary.

Mr. B. F. Milden handled an old type prescription of cocaine hydrochloride and silver nitrate in the one aqueous solution. He advocated the precipitation of the chloride by the addition of a further quantity of silver nitrate and removal by filtration.

Members present entered readily into discussion about each prescription, and the evening closed with a general feeling of satisfaction by the organisers (Messrs. K. S. Porter, A. E. Bowey, R. A. Anderson and K. D. Johnson) and the members who attended.

### PHARMACY BOARD

#### Monthly Meeting

The Pharmacy Board of South Australia met at 25 King William street, Adelaide, on May 5, at 7.45 p.m.

**Present.**—Mr. K. S. Porter (President) in the Chair, Messrs. E. F. Lipsham, G. L. Burns, B. F. Milden, D. C. Hill, A. E. Bowey, L. A. Craig and the Registrar.

**Correspondence.**—From the Pharmaceutical Association, forwarding copies of letter received from the Phar-

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA (Continued)

maceutical Society of Great Britain in which some details of the degree in pharmacy in the University of Malta are outlined.

From a registered pharmaceutical chemist, inquiring as to the position of a partnership between a registered person and an unregistered person. The necessary information has been supplied.

**Depots.**—Registrar reported that copies of the amendment to the Depot Regulation should be available within a few days. It was decided that copies should be forwarded to all registered pharmaceutical chemists and that the attention of country pharmacists should be drawn to the amendment.

**Relievers.**—Mr. R. H. Brice to Mr. A. G. Evans; Mr. D. A. J. Buik to Miss M. E. Croft; Miss J. M. Bulman to Miss P. D. Stanley; Mr. C. L. Reid to Messrs. G. P. Bartold, L. A. Davison, J. G. Cox and C. A. M. Reid; Mr. E. A. Hillman to Mr. C. M. Venning; and Mr. L. C. Norman to Messrs. D. M. Trevelyan and D. C. Hill.

**Inspector's Reports.**—It was resolved that a pharmaceutical chemist be advised that, as his application for the transfer of an apprentice from one address to another is not supported by the apprentice, permission cannot be granted for the transfer.

It was noted that a reply had not been received from a registered pharmaceutical chemist in connection with correspondence sent to him in the matter of labels. It was resolved that this matter be discussed with the Board's solicitor.

**Trade Names.**—Correspondence was received from a registered pharmaceutical chemist asking if it was permissible to use a trade name. The necessary information has been forwarded.

**Finance.**—Statement for the month of April was submitted and adopted, and accounts totalling £44/15/1 were passed for payment.

**Practising Certificate.**—A Certificate of Identity in favour of Mr. E. A. Hillman has been forwarded to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

**Apprentices.**—An application was received from Mr. E. A. Hillman for the assignment of indentures entered into with Messrs. G. N. Kamm and R. P. Anderson. As the name of the person to whom the apprentices are to be transferred is not stated, it was decided that further consideration be deferred.

Permission was granted to Mr. E. W. Sullivan to assign the indentures entered into between himself and Mr. J. S. Bertram to Mr. C. H. Lyons.

**Registration of Premises.**—Applications were received and noted from Messrs. S. N. Leyshon, J. H. A. Ongley, N. Bahnisch and K. C. G. Huxtable.

**Essential Equipment for Training of Apprentices.**—Reports were received and appropriate directions given to the Registrar.

### PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

#### Council Meeting

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia met at 25 King William street, Adelaide, on May 4, at 7.45 p.m.

**Present.**—Mr. A. C. Holloway (President) in the Chair, Messrs. E. F. Lipsham, K. S. Porter, D. F. J. Penhall, A. A. Russell, Walter C. Cotterell, J. D. Duncan and Miss E. S. Story (acting as Minutes Secretary); Mr. H. C. Martin indisposed.

**Correspondence.**—From the Public Relations Secretariat, forwarding copy of a newspaper cutting dealing with night service by doctors.

The question of the publication in the newspapers of

names of drugs and potent substances has been referred to the Pharmaceutico-Medical Liaison Committee.

To the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, requesting a copy of the Code of Ethics. In reply the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain forwarded a Statement upon matters of unprofessional conduct.

Correspondence was forwarded to 14 members inviting them to attend a conference with the Council for the purpose of discussion on matters affecting the profession, particularly a detailed code of ethics enforceable at law, the question of licensing and squatting, amendment to the Act concerning the limitation of shops to be owned by one man, and also the question of a Pharmaceutical Society of Australia together with one curriculum, one registration and one set of poison regulations for the whole of Australia.

**Students.**—Discussion took place on the additional lectures to be provided on the subject of Pricing. It was resolved that a Sub-Committee of the Council should discuss this matter with representatives of the F.P.S.G.A. (S.A. Branch).

The conditions of awards and prizes were discussed, and a report by the Sub-Committee was considered, after which it was decided that the matter should be deferred until the July meeting.

**Squatting.**—Correspondence was received from a member and the necessary reply forwarded.

**Finance.**—Statement for the month of April was submitted and adopted, and accounts totalling £430/19/5 were passed for payment.

**Membership.**—A report was tabled setting out that two members have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current financial year.

**Elections.**—Letter from Mr. J. U. Maxwell, advising nominations received from Messrs. Walter C. Cotterell, K. D. Johnson, E. F. Lipsham, V. L. Mitchell and D. E. McLaren.

**Post-Graduate Lectures.**—Mr. Porter reported that 74 members had attended the first lecture, and that a request had been forwarded to Mr. J. H. McRoberts, of Felton, Grimwade & Duerdin Pty. Ltd., asking for permission for Mr. G. Treleaven to address members at the second of the series of lectures. Felton, Grimwade & Duerdin Pty. Ltd. had approved the request, and Mr. Treleaven would talk to members on Tuesday, June 15, on the subject of "Important Drugs of the B.P. 1953 and Some Recent Developments."

**Complimentary Dinner.**—The Complimentary Dinner to newly-qualified members will be held on May 31 at 8 p.m. at the Hotel Adelaide.

### THE GUILD

#### S.B.C. Meeting

The State Branch Committee of the South Australian Branch of the Guild met at 254 Sturt street, Adelaide, on May 17, at 7.45 p.m.

**Present.**—The President (Mr. Walter C. Cotterell) and Messrs. Collyer, Holloway, Patrick, Miller, Russell, Retallack, Mitchell and the Secretary.

**Packing of Guild Lines.**—The Secretary reported the results of a conversation he had with Mr. Harvey in respect to the packing of Guild lines. Resolved that the Secretary be authorised to have an agreement drafted by the Guild and Solicitors between Southern Drug Ltd. and the Guild, and submit same to the next meeting.

**New Members.**—J. H. A. Ongley has opened at 116 Winston avenue, Cudmore Park, and has therefore been removed from the Suspense List. D. P. O'Reilly has opened a branch shop at 207 Churchill road, Prospect.

**Correspondence.**—Federal Office, re Pharmaceutical Benefits (Penicillin): Received, and part to be circulated in "Gilseal News."

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA (Continued)

**By-Laws.**—The Secretary presented to the meeting a draft set of By-laws he had prepared, subject to additional amendments, which he suggested. Resolved that Mr. Cotterell, Mr. Miller and the Secretary be a sub-committee to draft the complete set and submit same to next meeting.

Merchandising Service: (1) Re Bristol Myers and a member.—Received. (2) Re Kotex—Received, but not considered satisfactory. (3) Re Hudnut.—Received with approval. (4) Return of loan.—Pleasantly conceded to.

**Federal Delegate's Report.**—The Federal Delegate (Mr. Walter C. Cotterell) gave a general resume on the following matters:

Re Guild House, Secretary to write Federal Secretary in respect to the suggestion put forward by Mr. Mitchell; Reckitt and Colman film show; insurance; Department of Health; dispensing of solids; re letters from the Pharmaceutical Association to the Federal Office of the B.M.A.; proposed Guild magazine; Southern States news; preparation of remits to the Federal Council meeting of any new lines to have approval of the Merchandising Service before handling, relative to packing, presentation, mark-up, etc.; Bristol Myers, Secretary to contact Mr. Currie in respect to parcel buy bonus issues, and to report same in "Gisela News."

**Pricing Officer's Report.**—The Pricing Officer (Mr. A. A. Russell) gave a resume on the following:

Re tablet bottles; the costing of 60 to 160 gram quantities and the probability of a reckoner sheet being available soon; re F.H.F. & Co. and the advertising by bonus issue of Solyptol Antiseptic in the south-east towns; broken quantities for pills and tablets, Secretary to write West Australian Branch for a copy of their table; cutting of prices, Secretary to put article in "Gisela News."

**Financial.**—Accounts totalling £217/0/5 were passed for payment.

**Aller-Ban.**—Secretary to advise that this State will handle this line, and to be advised when stocks are available.

**P.B.A. and P.M.S. Scripts: Legibility of Duplicates.**—Secretary to write Mr. H. Martin re bringing before the Liaison Committee the necessity of medicos producing more legible duplicate forms for P.B.A. and P.M.S. scripts.

**D. & P. Work.**—Secretary to write Mr. Thomas of Kodak (A'sia) Pty. Ltd. in respect to endeavouring to get unanimity on the acceptance of deposits on films for D. & P. work.

**Meeting at Murray Bridge.**—The Secretary brought forward several matters from the recent meeting with members at Murray Bridge:

Wages set-up covering country shop assistants: Chamber of Manufactures asked to prepare a similar set-up to that of the chemists' award

The inability to read some repeat scrips, and the desirability of members to make these clear: Secretary to attend to this through the Liaison Committee with the B.M.A.

Secretary to obtain from Mr. N. R. Cumming, of Cleve, a copy of his sticker, and advise members through the "News."

The matter of bonus discounts of various tooth brushes as compared to Nada.

Re the sale of Penicillin and Sulpha Drugs, etc., for veterinary use sold through stock agents, etc. Mr. Cotterell to attend to this.

The supply of Dettol, etc., to stores at Pt. Elliott. Local members to supply details.

Complaints re Bakelite caps of A.C.I. manufacture being too brittle, sizes 22 and 24 mills. Secretary to contact Mr. Sampson of A.G.M.

Eudunda Farmers and P.A.T.A. Secretary to contact Mr. Fleming re discounts by E.F.C.

The meeting closed.

## ALCOHOL AND BARBITURATES

The possible dangers of taking alcohol and barbiturate drugs concurrently have recently been the subject of comment. In order to determine the acute toxicity of sodium amytal and ethyl alcohol administered simultaneously, G. A. H. Buttle, H. J. Fearn and J. R. Hodges, of the Pharmacology Department, School of Pharmacy, University of London, carried out tests on mice. The results are reported in the *B.M.J.*, July 25, p. 222. Sodium amytal was administered orally as a solution containing 20 mgm./ml and ethyl alcohol (50 v/v in water) was given by the same route. The median lethal dose of each of these substances, administered alone, was determined. Also, the amounts of ethyl alcohol required to produce 50 per cent. mortality in mice which had been given approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{8}$  of the median lethal dose of sodium amytal were determined. Graphical treatment of the results showed that synergism exists between sodium amytal and alcohol. These effects, however, are simply additive, and, say the authors, the results provide no evidence that the toxicity of sodium amytal is potentiated by alcohol.—*Pharm J.*, August 8, 1953.

## PENICILLIN SENSITIVITY

"It is necessary to shout from the rooftops the change that has come over the scene since this seemingly harmless miracle drug (penicillin) came into use in 1943. Today, in the words of Richard A. Kern and Major A. Wimberley, junior, it heads the list of medicinal agents in the frequency, diversity and severity of the sensitivities which it induces. In current experience it has replaced foreign sera as the commonest cause of fatal anaphylactic shock. It is responsible for a growing number of deaths due to irreversible vascular allergy, as in periarteritis nodosa.

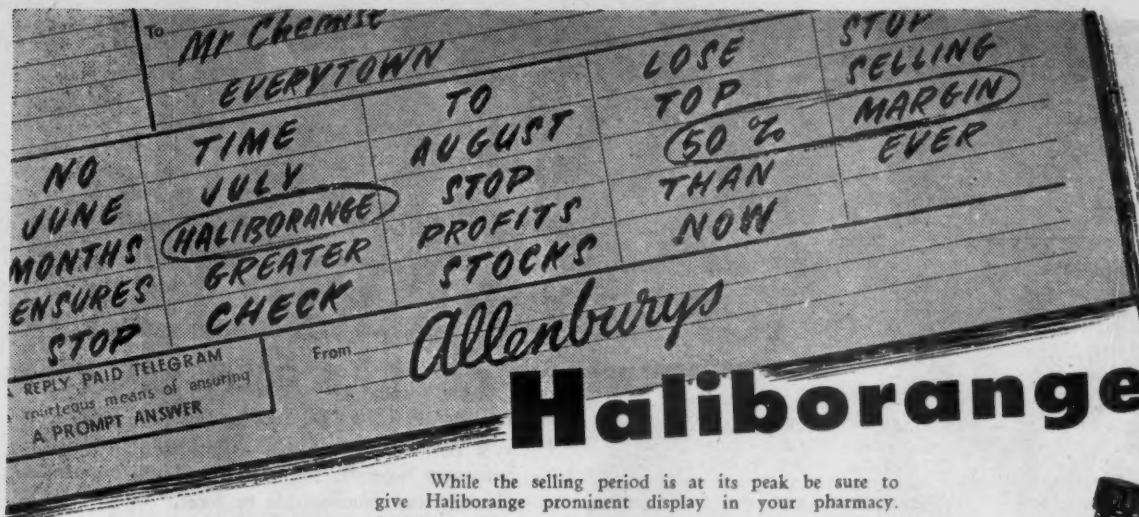
However, an even more serious matter to the medical conscience is the fact that this change was not wholly inevitable, and many of the more severe reactions still need not occur. As Kern and Wimberley point out, in many instances sensitivity has unnecessarily been incurred, and moreover the severest sensitivities can be recognised by skin tests . . ."

"The most dangerous type of penicillin sensitivity, anaphylaxis, can be usually recognised by a skin test, especially by the immediate wealing reaction on cutaneous or intracutaneous testing, and at times in lesser degrees of sensitivity, also by the delayed (24 to 48 hours) intracutaneous reaction.

Apart from the question of avoiding penicillin sensitisation in the first place, penicillin reactions may be largely avoided by paying careful attention to an allergic history in the patient's background, by questioning patients with regard to previous penicillin therapy, especially previous penicillin reactions, and by taking proper precautions in the management of such patients . . ."

"Above all, however, a sense of responsibility must be universally developed towards the use of penicillin and the other antibiotics. These are much too valuable to be turned into therapeutic outlaws."

—From a leading article in "The Medical Journal of Australia," May 15, 1954.



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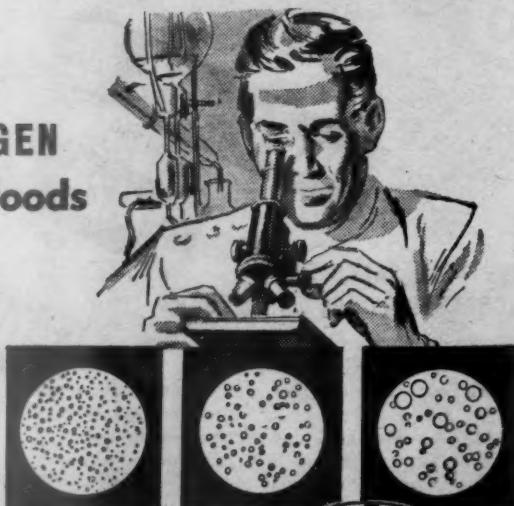
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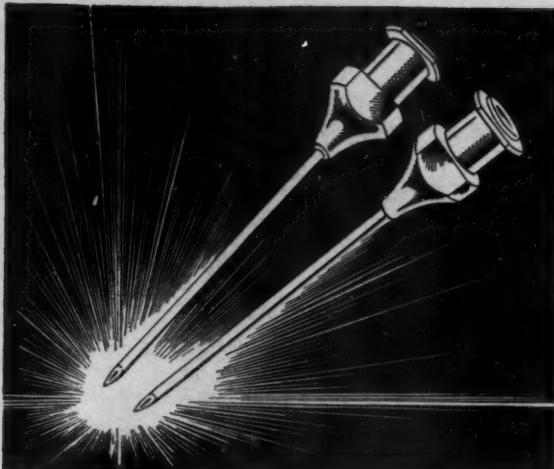
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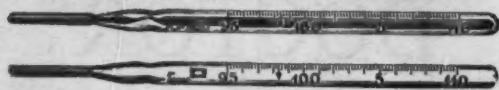
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S/4 After dilution	2+	1+	
S/8 Before dilution	3	2	
S/8 After dilution	3	2	
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Special  
scientifically balanced

### VAGINAL ANTISEPTIC TABLETS

DEODORANT — PROPHYLACTIC

for effective  
intimate feminine hygiene

Packed in tubes of 12 tablets.

Wholesale price 42/- per dozen tubes, plus tax.  
Reliably known to Australian market for 25 years.  
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## PLANNED PARENTHOOD

When you are asked for guidance as to means of planning parenthood, you may recommend PROVEEN Tablets or Jelly with complete confidence.  
These products are recommended by the Racial Hygiene Association of Australia in all cases where family planning is a medical necessity.

### A "Chemist Only" Product

Order your stocks now and gain the advantage of the generous bonus buy.

#### PROVEEN PRICES:

Proveen, Complete (with transparent self-measuring applicator)	..	..	69/- per doz.	RETAIL, 10/-
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Proveen Refills ..	..	..	56/- per doz.	RETAIL, 8/-
Proveen Tablets ..	..	..	42/- per doz.	RETAIL, 6/-
			PACK, 14 to the dozen.	

*Stocks obtainable from all Wholesalers*

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*For Baby—*

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A MULTIVITAMIN PREPARATION IN LIQUID FORM

Abdec Drops is a clear stable solution of eight important Vitamins. It is the most outstanding pharmaceutical research of the last decade, as the fat soluble Vitamin A has been solubilised into an aqueous solution.

## DOSAGE

ABDEC DROPS is readily miscible with milk, fruit juices, soups, cooked or pre-cooked cereals and other foods, and for breastfed babies may be dropped on the tongue.

The full daily dose is preferably placed in a single feeding. The average daily dose for infants under one year is 10 drops; for older children 20 drops, and adults 30 drops. A dropper is supplied with each package to facilitate accurate dosage.

*Supplied in 10 cc., 20 cc. and 50 cc. bottles.*

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TO RESTORE  
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'Vasylox' relieves nasal congestion rapidly and for long periods.

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'Vasylox' is outstanding for its virtual absence of secondary engorgement. Non-stinging and non-irritant, 'Vasylox' is equally suitable for infants, children and adults.

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BRAND  
SOLUTION OF METHOXAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE

in the common cold, rhinitis syndromes, hay fever



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